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Arafat said trying to forge new 'eastern front'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is encouraging the Iranian regime to tighten its links with Syria as the first step towards the formation of a new "eastern front" that eventually would include Iraq, and would be capable of pressuring Israel into accepting Palestinian demands, highly-placed sources said.

The current perception in Jerusalem is that Arafat has been using the goodwill he recently garnered with the Iranian leadership as well as his strong links to Iraq to forge a new regional alliance.

Its initial objective would be to discourage Turkey from extending its campaign against the Kurdish separatist PKK by seizing large parts of northern Iraq while urging the Turks to revoke their military agreement with Israel.

Referring to a senior Iranian minister's visit to Baghdad last month, the Arabic daily *A-Shark al-Awsat*, published in London, said Syria and Iraq had agreed "that Iraq should return to its natural environment."

Arafat's interest in teaming up with Iran, Iraq and Syria is believed to be motivated by his deep disappointment with the pace of the peace process. Official documents here contrast the PA's former attitude toward Iran, which they describe as having been "strong and aggressive," with the "marked improvement" in its relationship with Tehran since the election of Mohammed Khatami, a relative moderate, as president.

"It is conceivable that Arafat is frustrated by the long crisis in negotiations with Israel," a government document said. The softening on Iran is also intended to affect internal factors, especially the Hamas organization, "in view of the frozen political process," according to the official Israeli perception.

Previously, the PA had pursued "a very strong and aggressive line against Iran," the document contends, accusing it of financing the Islamic organizations, spurring them to act against the PA and Israel, and attack senior PA officers. The PA's leadership was quoted in a Voice of Palestine radio broadcast as having congratulated Iraq and Syria for having launched their current dialogue.

The same broadcast expressed confidence that "Iran will work for the tightening of relations between it and the rest of the Arab states as well as with the Palestinians."

Last month Arafat reportedly sent an official letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in which he surveyed recent developments concerning the Palestinians and referred to "the Israeli oppression, the Judaization of Jerusalem and the settlements."

The PA's representative in Amman, Omar Khatibi, was quoted as saying "Arafat meets regularly with Iraq's ambassador to Jordan during his visits to Amman for the purpose of exchanging views."

Arafat informed Khatami in the congratulatory message he sent him upon winning the Iranian election that "we appreciate your support and solidarity for us in our quest for our national rights - the right to return, self-determination and establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

He reportedly ended his message with the words, "Together until Jerusalem!"



Habad followers at yesterday's Tel Aviv rally, under a large picture of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson. (Ilan Oleschewsky/Israel Sun)

Lubavitcher Rebbe's yahrzeit marked at Messiah-infused rally

By HERB KEINON

"Moshiah, Moshiah, Moshiah, aye, aye, aye, aye, aye, aye," thundered Hassidic singer-superstars Avraham Fried and Mordechai Ben-David.

"Moshiah, Moshiah, Moshiah" sang back some 7,500 at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliyahu sports arena last night.

The crowd was encouraged by video footage of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, waving his arms and clapping as if he was in the hall, singing along.

Three years to the day, by the Jewish calendar, after the death of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, his faithful came to celebrate the man that many thought was - and many think will still be revealed as - the Messiah.

"There was no question that when the Messiah will be revealed to us, it would be the rebbe," said Habad Youth Organization

spokesman Jay Litvin. "As we continue in our longing for the Messiah today, we can't imagine it being anyone other than the rebbe. We may not know when, how or why, but as you project longing for the Messiah, we believe it will be the rebbe."

The night was Messiah-infused, from the songs expressing longing for the Messiah, to a sign hanging from the arena's speaker system that read, "Here, now, the Messiah is coming."

Outside the hall, one man was selling pens that read, "Long live King Messiah," while another was selling handbags with the slogan, "Together we will prepare for the coming of the Messiah."

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Groner, the rebbe's personal secretary for some 20 years, told the crowd: "The rebbe is with us now. He is looking at each and every one of us."

While he was speaking, the organizers flashed images of the

rebbe on two cinema-sized movie screens hanging from the ceiling.

Although Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu attended a similar gathering last year to thank Habad for their help in the election, this year he sent cabinet secretary Danny Naveh in his stead.

Naveh's announcement that he had a greeting from "our prime minister" was met with a mixture of boos and cheers. By contrast, Moleket MK Benny Elon was greeted by a warm round of applause when he was introduced.

Among the other public personalities in attendance were Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush.

A special section on the podium was reserved for representatives of the settlement in Hebron, underscoring the close connection between Habad and the community there.

Foreign Ministry team to fight Har Homa resolution at UN

By JAY BUSHINSKY

For lack of a duly appointed ambassador to the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry is sending a senior diplomatic team headed by deputy director-general Yitzhak Leor to the world organization's New York headquarters for the impending General Assembly debate on the

Har Homa construction project. Israel's envoy-designate, Dore Gold, has not yet won the requisite cabinet approval because his nomination was not submitted by Foreign Minister David Levy for its consideration to date.

Influential government circles assailed this delay, contending that it deprived the Israeli delegation of leadership and direc-

tion at a critical juncture when the PLO and the Arab states are expected to mount a powerful assault against Israel's settlement policy.

A well-informed source contended that Levy has been preoccupied by his prolonged fight with the prime minister.

See HOMA, Page 2

Israeli envoy arranges baptism by pope

By LISA PALMER-BILLIG

ROME - Ziki Farhud, an Israeli-Arab Catholic baby from Shfaram near Nazareth, was baptized by Pope John Paul II himself in his private chapel at 7:30 a.m. yesterday. The unusual ceremony was arranged through the personal intervention of Aharon Lopez, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See.

Ziki got special treatment because his is a special case. His parents, Faraz and Re'uya, lost their first child at the age of six months and a second child before it was born, because of a skin dis-

ease known as epigamalosiboloso. The couple, who are first cousins, are both carriers of this disease and doctors told them they had a 25 percent chance of bearing a third child with the disease.

Before conceiving Ziki, they visited St. Peter's in Rome and vowed that if they could give birth to a healthy child, they would have him baptized by the pope.

The Farhuds turned to Lopez several months ago, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Rome made them aware of the existence of an Israeli Embassy to the Holy See.

Lopez contacted the Vatican sec-

retary of state.

"I felt this request was symbolic, and it was my duty, as an ambassador representing all Israeli citizens alike, whether they are Jews, Christians, or Moslems. When I saw the joy on the face of Ziki's parents, his aunt and uncle, and the three grandparents during the ceremony, I knew I had done the right thing."

During the baptism, the baby was fretful, but every time the pope came near and stroked his face, little Ziki fell into a contented silence.

A July papal baptism is exceptional. Generally, the Pope bap-

Ne'eman named finance minister

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to present his new cabinet appointments to the Knesset at 4 p.m. today, including the surprise choice, announced yesterday, of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister.

At 11 last night, cabinet secretary Danny Naveh submitted to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon two signed agreements under which coalition chairman Michael Eitan will be appointed science minister and MK Silvan Shalom deputy defense minister. Shalom is to replace Eitan after a year.

Shalom will be also the liaison between the government and the Knesset, Israel Radio reported,



Ya'acov Ne'eman

No-confidence motions fail, Page 2

and will be able to sit in on all cabinet meetings, although he will not be allowed to vote.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was named finance minister-designate 10 days ago, was passed over in the cabinet reshuffle. He refused to give interviews yesterday after briefly commending Ne'eman's appointment. Those close to him said he finds himself in an awkward situation and is considering his future steps.

Also left out of the cabinet, apparently, is Likud MK Shaul Amor, who had also been promised a portfolio by Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's decision to put Ne'eman in the Treasury rather than Sharon was finalized at a meeting late Sunday night with Ne'eman and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, with Foreign Minister David Levy participating by phone from Beit She'an. Netanyahu had earlier notified President Ezer Weizman of his intention.

Before dawn, Netanyahu called to inform the other ministers, who were stunned by the move. He

wanted to present the new cabinet appointments to the Knesset yesterday afternoon, after finally resolving the crisis with Levy and bypassing what Likud sources called "the Sharon land mine." But a new problem surfaced when it appeared both Eitan and Shalom claimed the science portfolio, which MK Ze'ev Begin had given up six months ago.

On Sunday night, after Ne'eman's appointment was settled, Eitan had given the Prime Minister's Office the impression he would consider taking the post of deputy finance minister - from which MK David Magen of Geshet resigned a few months ago. Netanyahu called Shalom and informed him that the science portfolio was his.

But yesterday morning Eitan made it clear he was still interested in the science portfolio and refused the post of deputy finance minister. Shalom and Eitan met with Netanyahu, who suggested they both serve as science minister by rotation. Eitan agreed, but Shalom refused.

The two then met privately to discuss the issue, but failed to reach agreement. They later each met with Netanyahu separately, but found no solution to the problem.

"I don't want to pull the rope too tightly," said Eitan, "but I am the senior between us. I came ahead of the others in the primaries and in every way am more suitable to be minister. However, I'm willing to make compromises to help the

government move forward, but we both have to compromise." Asked whether he would agree to serve as science minister by rotation, Amor replied: "Would you agree to eat half a portion of cous-cous?"

Likud sources said that, after helping Netanyahu keep his coalition intact for 10 days and believing the Treasury was his, Sharon now finds himself pushed aside, in addition to not being made a member of the inner security cabinet, as he had demanded.

However, Channel 1 last night reported that Sharon knew of the plans to appoint Ne'eman finance minister and even encouraged him to take the post.

Ne'eman's appointment is the culmination of a secret move by the prime minister, which only a handful were privy to. These included Mordechai, Levy, Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri, and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman.

Netanyahu had offered Ne'eman the post of finance minister some 10 days ago, soon after he had declined the post of justice minister. Ne'eman hesitated to accept the new offer. During that time Deri, Levy, and Mordechai applied heavy pressure on Ne'eman to change his mind. Weizman was also instrumental in the secret contacts preceding Ne'eman's appointment, repeatedly urging Netanyahu to strengthen Levy and Mordechai for the sake of the peace process.

A key role in convincing Ne'eman to return to the cabinet was also played by Mordechai. Levy and Mordechai both objected to Sharon's joining the inner security cabinet and wanted Ne'eman to take the Treasury to block Sharon's path to this major ministry.

Ne'eman is not new to the Finance Ministry, where he served as director-general from 1979 to 1981 under finance minister Yigal Hurwitz. There he is remembered mainly for coming up with a system for citizens to inform on those who have foreign capital investments, and for proposing a tax on cash transactions.

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COMMENT

Terms of endearment

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday surprised numerous pundits, politicians and the entire business community, by leaving the Treasury out of Ariel Sharon's reach.

Indeed, while this move may initially appear economically preferred, it may ultimately prove to be politically explosive.

Economically, Ne'eman comes to the familiar terrain where he first flirted with politics during a short stint as Treasury director-general in the early 1980s.

See TERMS, Page 2

Levy wins significant concessions from PM

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy won a signal political victory yesterday by formally redefining his role within the cabinet, as well as the division of governmental authority, precisely along the lines he had demanded from the outset of his showdown with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

It stipulated that foreign policy and security concerns will be the cabinet's exclusive province and no other forum will be set up in its place. The immediate upshot of this will be the dissolution of Netanyahu's "Eitken cabinet," in which Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai were consulted on crucial issues and to which National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon was to have been coopted had he become finance minister.

Levy opposed Sharon's presence in this elite forum, according to Army Radio.

The Netanyahu-Levy agreement, on the basis of which the foreign minister will remain in his post, also states that:

- the foreign minister will be responsible to the prime minister in the conduct of foreign affairs;
- the foreign minister will be responsible for foreign policy and will supervise negotiations with the Palestinians, while advancing the peace process;
- the foreign minister will coordinate his fellow ministers' contacts

with Palestinian leaders and their involvement in the negotiations;

- cabinet secretary Danny Naveh will serve as a member of the team negotiating with the Palestinians and will function "according to the instructions of the foreign minister;"

- all meetings with PA officials dealing with the negotiations that involve a minister or other government official will be coordinated and approved by the foreign minister.

While these terms effectively compel the cabinet secretary to subordinate himself to Levy, they permit Yitzhak Molcho - the attorney who has been participating in the negotiations at the prime minister's request - to continue as his personal envoy, providing he reports to the prime minister and Levy "before and after" every session.

The agreement also deals with outstanding domestic issues, specifying that the national budget will be formulated in consultation with Levy's Geshet Party and will relate to social problems. It also calls for the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to deal with unemployment and to create new job opportunities.

Other domestic issues include: the institution of a long school day; expansion of urban renewal projects; enlargement of financial assistance to homeless, young couples and single-parent families; and aid to students from development towns and poverty-stricken neighborhoods.



NEWS

in brief

Racism added to pig-flyer charges

The Jerusalem district attorney yesterday added racism to the charges facing Tatiana Susskind, accused of posting leaflets in Hebron that inflamed Arab anger by depicting Mohammed as a pig. She had already been charged with offending religious sensitivities, supporting a terror group for wearing a Kach movement T-shirt when she put up the leaflets, and endangering life on the roads, for throwing a stone at an Arab car.

Prosecutors have asked the Jerusalem District Court to order Susskind to remain in custody until the end of her trial. A hearing on the request is scheduled for tomorrow. *Itim*

Arbel dismisses Lieberman's statement

Responding to news stories that Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, had said he would refuse to be questioned any more regarding the Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) case, State Attorney Edna Arbel said yesterday there is no reason for her to intervene at this stage.

"I have not seen that anyone has been summoned to an investigation and not turned up," she said. "The minute we reach that point, we can talk. I need not react to every statement made in a moment of anger and sorrow." *Liat Collins*

Sara Netanyahu's ex-husband to tell all

Doron Neuberger, first husband of Sara Netanyahu, has reportedly decided to publish a kiss-and-tell book about his marriage after all. "I think she can do very manipulative things," he said on Channel 2 last night, adding he believes she is dangerous to the public.

Neuberger, 37, said he dropped plans for the book after intense lobbying against it last year, but changed his mind because he was enraged by her accusations he had recorded her in secret.

Neuberger says he made five tapes with his ex-wife's knowledge as part of efforts to revive their marriage, which the TV said was failing after he discovered she had an affair. *AP*

Police accused of racism after killing Ethiopian

Hundreds of Ethiopian immigrants protested at the police headquarters in the Negev yesterday afternoon, accusing police of racism for shooting an Ethiopian immigrant to death.

Tafra Behata, 23, of Beersheba, was shot to death early yesterday morning in unclear circumstances. The incident is being investigated. *Itim*

Two killed in collisions

A man was killed and two others were injured when two cars collided near Mt. Tabor yesterday afternoon. The injured were taken to Ha'emek Hospital in Afula. The victims' identities were not immediately released. Police are investigating the collision.

A 24-year-old motorcyclist died shortly after being hit by a car in Kfar Sava last night. *Itim*

Woman quits IAF course after harassment

A woman training to be the air force's first female air traffic controller has left the military complaining of sexual harassment, the IDF said yesterday.

"I've lost all faith in the system," Israel Radio quoted her as saying. It said the men in the course burned her notebook after she got higher marks than they did and told her girls can't be smarter than boys.

Three soldiers will face courts-martial and a fourth has been booted out of the training program, the IDF Spokesman said. The woman student, a lieutenant, said her male classmates intentionally bumped into her during physical training, laughing when she fell. *Reuters*

Weizman heartened after meeting Netanyahu

President Ezer Weizman said last night at an Israel Prize for Defense ceremony that he has been heartened by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's willingness to negotiate with the Palestinians and to offer them realistic solutions.

He recalled a meeting with Netanyahu yesterday, saying, "the minute that I heard the prime minister talk about the Allon Plan, I realized that he understood that he wouldn't get 100 percent [of the West Bank]. I think there are sparks of hope that we are getting closer [to a settlement with the Palestinians]. We are not dealing here with love. We are dealing with self-interest. I think we are coming to the point where the Palestinians and Syria will realize this." *Steve Rodan*

Two Shuafat cousins drown

Cousins Karim Mustafa, 20, and Nihad Dowek, 22, drowned off Tel Aviv's Frishman Beach on Sunday night. The two Shuafat residents did not know how to swim, but went to the shore with another relative late Sunday afternoon and paddled in the shallow water.

Later, however, the two apparently decided to go into deeper water and were swept away. They were noticed waving for help by a child on the beach, and police organized a massive search, assisted by an IDF helicopter and searchlights. The search was called off at 11 p.m. and yesterday morning the two bodies were found washed up on shore. *Raine Marcus*

Indyk helps inaugurate new promenade

The American flag whipped over the Judean Hills yesterday as US Ambassador Martin Indyk helped inaugurate a new park and promenade in Tel Aviv near Jerusalem. Indyk said the project, partly funded by US Jews, is a symbol of the two countries' special relationship.

"Throughout [Israel's] history, the government and the people of the United States have served as its unwavering supporters," Indyk said at the inauguration. "This is not just a formal policy of a single administration but the sustained commitment of an entire nation." *AP*

Thousands attend security fair

Scores of Israeli companies specializing in the manufacture, import and export of military, police and civilian security equipment exhibited their wares at the annual Security fair at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds last week.

This year around 10,000 visitors attended the three-day exhibition, approximately 10% from abroad.

One of the few foreign companies participating was a British/American firm specializing in the organization of security exhibitions and bomb disposal know-how. The company has asked Israel Police to help in removing mines from around a Jewish cemetery in Bosnia. *Raine Marcus*

No-confidence motions fail

By LIAT COLLINS

There were no surprises yesterday when no-confidence motions by Labor, Meretz, and Hadash were defeated 39 to 48 after a relatively quiet debate.

The votes on the motions were delayed by a few hours to allow MKs to participate in the funeral of Maj. Nadav Milo, who was killed in Lebanon on Sunday.

Labor leader Ehud Barak dedicated much of his speech to the coalition crisis in the government. Referring to the recent talk by Shas spiritual mentor Ovadia Yosef, who used the image of the leader of the nation as a sightless goat, Barak said: "The people demands you take the blind goat

out of the kitchen."

He also said that senior Likud MKs and former MKs had criticized the premier.

"You have taken us from crisis to crisis," Barak said.

Recognizing that the no-confidence motions were unlikely to pass he added, "Even if you are saved again by the skin of your teeth, we know the people are tired of the embarrassments and fears which have become our lot since this government came into power."

He said Netanyahu had increased the differences and gaps in society instead of narrowing them. He also mentioned the growing diplomatic isolation of Israel and threats from Iran

and Syria, and of an armed intifada.

Barak called on coalition MKs to help change the government "for the sake of the people."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid attacked the prime minister saying: "NASA is wrong in saying there is no life on Mars; Netanyahu lives on Mars."

He also used the goat image, saying: "It's possible a goat stands at the head of the government - blind or sighted - but the public is not a herd and is not blind."

He said the new ministerial appointments "show that the prime minister can fool all the ministers all the time" and warned of a possible religious war with the Arabs.

The motion by Hadash, presented by MK Tamar Gozansky, focussed on social issues including "the collapse of the health system, the strike by the psychologists, and the housing shortage," as well as the "threat of war."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, answering for the government, said the Arab leaders are getting used to a new reality that the Netanyahu government would stand firm on Israel's interests and would not give in "as the Labor government" had.

"They [Rabin and Peres] gave, and they [the Palestinians] took," said Hanegbi.

He said this had been perceived as a sign of weakness and said

the Palestinians had violated the main commitments they had agreed to in the Oslo Accords. Hanegbi also asked, rhetorically, "What sanctions did the Labor government take when buses blew up, when soldiers were kidnapped, and blood flowed? The situation got so bad you had to force world leaders to leave their capitals and come to Sharm el-Sheikh for a conference on terror - to come to your defense."

He said the opposition has the legitimate right to protest perceived social discrimination, but accused the Labor government of ignoring the development towns while investing huge sums in those sectors close to it such as the Histadrut and kibbutzim.

Settlers applaud Ne'eman appointment

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settler leaders applauded the decision to appoint Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister yesterday, declaring an injustice had finally been corrected.

Yechiel Leiter, spokesman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, declared that after all the trials and tribulations Ne'eman had gone through, council members had every reason to applaud the appointment.

"Ya'acov Ne'eman is committed to the territorial integrity of the Land of Israel," Leiter said.

He added that the council is happy that it hasn't lost from the government Ariel Sharon, who will remain national infrastructure minister.

Meanwhile, former Channel 1 producer Adir Zik, affiliated with Arutz 7 and considered a close personal friend of Ne'eman, praised the appointment.

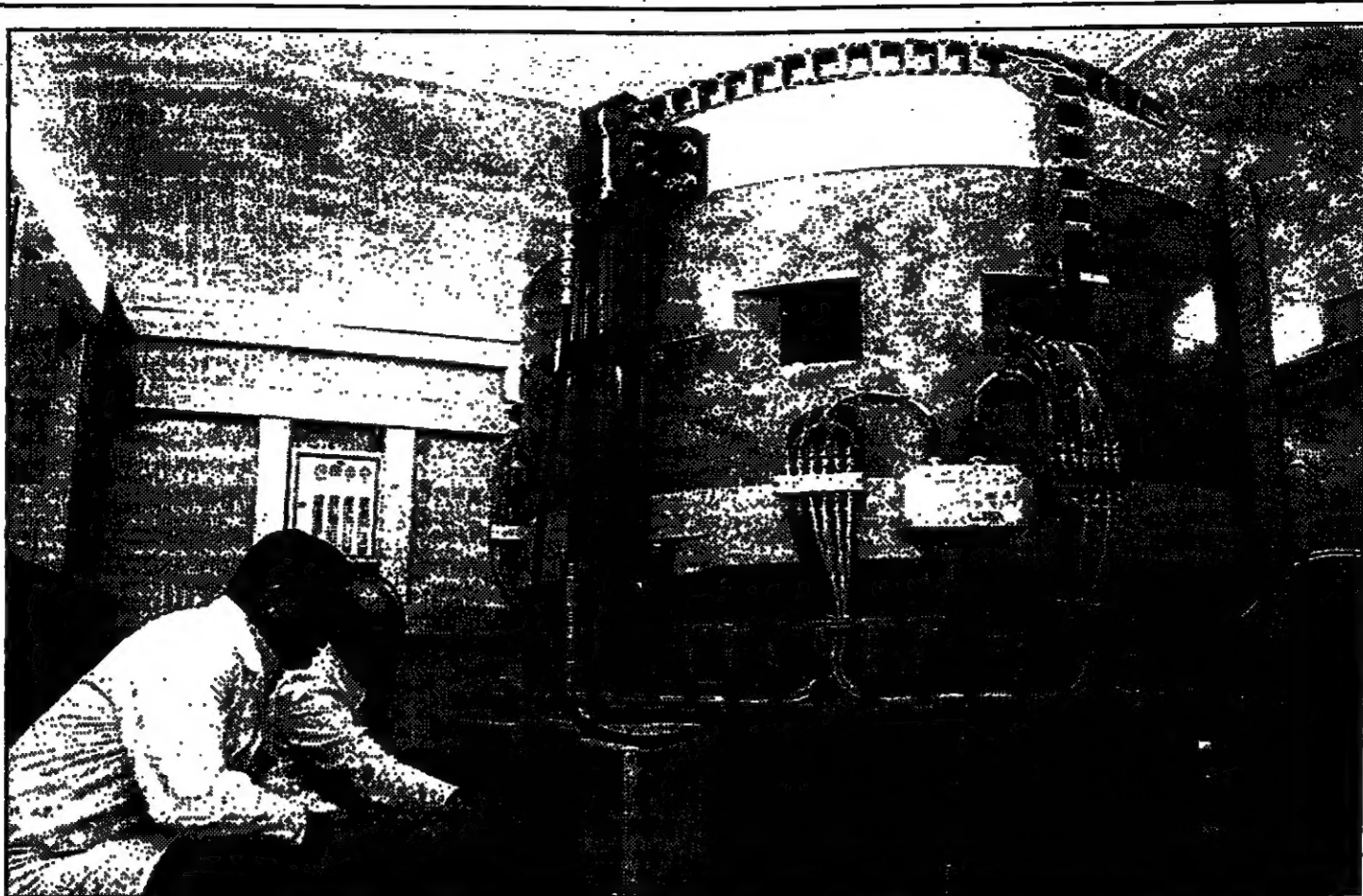
In a radio interview yesterday, Zik called Ne'eman a self-made man.

"He never received any inheritance, he arrived where he is today because he is hardworking and extremely talented," Zik said.

He said that Ne'eman is considered a financial expert of international acclaim, particularly in legal aspects.

Zik added that Ne'eman would continue to be a firm believer in the Land of Israel.

NRK MK Nissan Slomiansky told Channel 1 yesterday after the announcement of the appointment that "finally the prime minister has restored confidence to the government."



Prof. Roland Chisin and Dr. Eyal Mishani make adjustments yesterday on the country's first medical cyclotron, installed at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem. (Avi Hayoun)

Capital gets country's first medical cyclotron

By JUDY SIEGEL

The country's first medical cyclotron - a \$2 million barrel-shaped particle accelerator that would fit into a medium-sized bedroom - has been installed at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

There are only 100 cyclotrons like it in medical centers around the world - 20 of them in the US.

The device uses electromagnets to change atoms of oxygen or nitrogen and molecules of glucose into short-lived isotopes; these are injected into the patient,

attaching themselves to fats, amino acids, sugars, oxygen, or water in the body, and emit radiation picked up by the hospital's two-year-old PET (positron emission tomography) scanner.

With a short half-life, the isotopes decay harmlessly after the scan, allowing additional scans to be performed on the same patient over and over without any harm from radiation.

"This is a momentous day for us," declared Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Pencbas.

Longer-lasting isotopes have

until now been flown in from abroad or produced in the Nabil Sorek Medical Research Center, but since some, such as oxygen, are potent for only a few minutes, they have to be produced adjacent to the PET.

Prof. Roland Chisin, Dr. Eyal Mishani, and others in the medical biophysics and nuclear medicine department explained that the cyclotron was installed underground, linked to the PET by a pneumatic tube that whooshes the isotope to the scanner.

It is now being "run in" mostly doing research on neurological

and cardiological functioning, but it has potential for the treatment of cancers: the PET can differentiate between scar tissue and cancerous cells by monitoring glucose consumption and blood flow and identify secondary cancers that have split off from a primary one. It can also determine whether a patient's spinal cord is functioning normally without waking him up during surgery.

Hadassah will sell glucose isotopes to other hospitals, and patients who need the sophisticated PET scanner are eventually to be referred to Hadassah.

HOMA

Continued from Page 1

The source said Levy preferred to present all of his ministerial appointments committee's nominees as a single "take-it-or-leave-it" package.

This would pose a difficult dilemma to the cabinet to the extent that all of the diplomatic nominees, including the controversial choice of Herzl Inbar as envoy to Moscow, would have to be endorsed to avoid prolonging the absence of an ambassador to the UN.

However, the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party, headed by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, vehemently opposes Inbar's candidacy. The party views the incumbent ambassador to the Ukraine, Zvi Magen, as a more suitable Israeli emissary to the Kremlin.

The UN post has been unoccupied for the past 15 months. A senior official said that lack of an ambassador to the UN has

hampered the preparation of position papers and other material needed to make an effective case for Israel. It also limits the level of diplomatic contact inasmuch as the various delegation chiefs cannot be approached by an Israeli of equal professional rank.

Tim described the special General Assembly which is scheduled to convene next week as a forum for emergency deliberations initiated by the PLO's representative to the world body.

It quotes Foreign Ministry sources as expressing fear that the debate will have a strong "anti-Israel" flavor which could culminate in the imposition of sanctions against Israel.

Leor and his colleagues will lobby in the UN headquarters corridors for a softening of the prospective resolution on Har Homa in particular and settlements beyond the 1949 armistice line in general. Their mission is to reinforce the existing Israeli delegation headed by Acting Ambassador David Peleg.

NE'EMAN

Continued from Page 1

Cabinet ministers, most of whom knew nothing of the plan to appoint Ne'eman, yesterday expressed satisfaction with the move.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said the appointment of Ne'eman was a matter of justice being done after Ne'eman was forced to quit the government to stand trial on charges of which he was completely exonerated.

Likud MK David Re'em, a supporter of Sharon's, regretted "the cabinet's losing Sharon" and called Ne'eman's appointment "another part of Bibi's theater of the absurd. There's Alice in Wonderland and there's Netanyahu in surprise land."

The National Religious Party, which had demanded Ne'eman's return to the cabinet after his recent acquittal of suborning justice charges, commended the move. However, MK Nissan Slomiansky threatened the faction might not support the new appointments if the government does not fulfill its construction promises in Hebron.

Labor Party leader MK Ehud Barak commended the appointment and said he hopes "Ne'eman's talents help this staggering government, which limps from one mine to the other without missing a single one, get by some of the potholes." Labor MK Shimon Peres said "the government remains shaky and lacking direction."

State Attorney Edna Arbel told the Knesset Interior Committee she knows of no reason that should prevent Ne'eman's appointment.

TERMS

Continued from Page 1

Indeed, Ne'eman's problems will be in the political sphere.

To pick up from where Dan Meridor has left off, Ne'eman must first and foremost uphold the thankless struggle to reign in the budget deficit, where his predecessor had registered some success. However, to achieve that, Ne'eman will have to snub Netanyahu's fiscally hungry coalition partners.

Similarly, to continue Meridor's struggles to de-monopolize such major economic players as the electricity and transportation industries, Ne'eman must confront some of the country's most powerful unions.

To be sure, Ne'eman is anything but confrontation-shy, and he is bound to strive toward Meridor's goals with a much more combative attitude.

However, due to his lack of a

political power base Ne'eman's appointment might prove that Israel's political system actually needs a political minister of finance, a person who would be able to cut the defense budget in spite of Yitzhak Mordechai's resistance, and slash various social expenses against Foreign Minister and Geshet faction leader David Levy's will.

Finally, beyond the challenges they face from unions and politicians, Ne'eman and Netanyahu's most potent threat will come from yesterday's big loser: Ariel Sharon. Having been led, along with the rest of us, to believe that he would preside over the national coffers, Sharon's mistreatment amounts to public humiliation.

In his newly disgruntled state, Sharon can not only affect the further redeployment, but in fact he can rally all budgetary malcontents against the premier and his finance minister. In other words, a humiliated Sharon is even more dangerous than the usual one.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

MEETING TO PRESENT THE GUIDELINES OF THE TENDER FOR A THIRD OPERATOR OF MOBILE RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICES

A meeting to present the guidelines for the tender for a third operator of mobile radio telephone services will be held on Sunday July 13, 1997 at 10 a.m. at Beth Sokolov, 4 Rehov Kaplan, Tel Aviv.

Participants:
Minister of Communications Limor Livnat
The Director General of the Ministry of Communications and Chairman of the Tenders Committee, Mr. Daniel Rosenne

Those wishing to attend the meeting are invited to call the Ministry of Communications, Spokesman's Office. Tel. 02-670-6323.

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Burned-out member

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak (right), on a visit to Beit Shemesh yesterday, watches an apparently disenchanted Likud Party member burn his membership card.

(Brian Hestler)

Likud's Sheerit blasts appointment; says Sharon a better choice

By DAVID HARRIS

"Ariel Sharon would have made a very good finance minister," Likud MK and deputy Knesset speaker Meir Sheerit declared yesterday, expressing regret over the handling of the ministerial appointments over the last two weeks. "Sharon was the minister of industry and trade and did a very good job."

Ya'acov Ne'eman will discover the task is particularly difficult for him to perform because he lacks a political power base, Sheerit added. "He may say 'Yes' to everybody," Sheerit continued. "Sharon can say 'No' to everyone, he wouldn't give a damn for anyone as minister of finance and so would take the right steps for the Israeli economy."

After Ne'eman's appointment to the Treasury was announced, MKs generally expressed their satisfaction. Opposition MKs were largely of the opinion that Ne'eman is far more suited to the Treasury than Sharon, both economically and politically, with coalition members taking the line that Ne'eman has had previous experience at the Treasury, as he served as its director-general in 1979-81.

• Avraham Shohat (Labor) - "The new finance minister will not be able to operate properly unless the modus operandi change in the Prime Minister's Office. If this continues, Ne'eman will be entering an office in which he will achieve nothing. Unless the unit in the Prime Minister's Office [under Binyamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon] which publishes releases on taxation, on the budget and interest rates is abolished, it's preferable not to stay in the post."

• "Ne'eman is very extreme in his political views, and he made a grave mistake in his behavior which lead him not to be justice minister."

• Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) - "Ne'eman's



Ariel Sharon



Meir Sheerit

appointment is excellent. He has a great deal of experience in the field of economics. This is a just act as it enables Ya'acov Ne'eman to return to the government. I believe this was all done with Ariel Sharon's agreement, so the prime minister informed me in the middle of last night [early Monday]. I don't believe the NRP is any different from the rest of the people in gaining from the appointment. Ne'eman is not a member of the NRP camp, as you put it, he is not a paid up member."

• Ophir Pines (Labor) - "Ne'eman is far more preferable to Sharon, but at the same time Ne'eman must concentrate on the post of finance minister and remove himself from all his other interests, which he seems to have throughout the country."

• Nissim Dahan (Shas) - "I'm pleased with the appointment. It means there don't have to be all sorts of upheavals within the government. He has the experience, but at the same time the Treasury is now a different place, with different work methods. He is an excellent manager and lawyer. With regard to the suggestion that he may transfer funds to small organizations, if he does so it's

not a disaster, because these groups that may have been ignored today deserve something."

• Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) - "It's hard to tell from his [Ne'eman's] short period as Treasury director-general how good he'll be, I just wish him luck. The question is more about diplomatic policy, Israel's standing in the world and the peace process, rather than the more technical issue of how the Treasury is managed. But Ne'eman is more appropriate [than Sharon] because he has greater experience of economics."

• Haim Oron (Meretz) - "The discussion surrounding his appointment was entirely based on politics and had nothing at all to do with the serious economic problems facing Israel. I doubt whether Ne'eman, who is thought of as a more professional appointee, will be able to progress the economy, given it has been heading for recession for several months under this government."

• Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) - "I think it's a good appointment. I'm particularly pleased that Ariel Sharon will remain in his current post as infrastructure minister, because it's a job that demands a person like him and he's begun a

number of important projects that must be completed, such as the work of the Ronen committee [on land reform] and the economic projects with Russia such as the gas.

"With regard to Ne'eman and his track record as director-general, I haven't heard any bad reports and that says a lot."

• Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party) - "We know that the government is in a crisis, with a lack of confidence between ministers and the prime minister. This leads to all sorts of immediate solutions and this appointment appears to be one of them. This solution brings more quiet to the country's political leadership and less votes of no confidence in it. From an economic perspective the appointment could turn out to be no less good than that of Sharon, after all we know Sharon is not thought of as being the greatest economist, but thinks more about the things he is interested in. This appointment neutralizes this possibility and that's good. I hope Ne'eman [literally 'the true one'] will live up to his name."

• Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) - "Ne'eman is appropriate for the job with his wide experience. If you think about it, he's had more experience than his predecessors Dan Meridor and Avraham Shohat. I believe Sharon is more appropriate for the National Infrastructure Ministry, he may have become bored in the Treasury deciding on technicalities about half a tax point. With regard to smaller parties and organizations, I hope Ne'eman will correct existing discrepancies, whether in favor of hardliners or any other group."

• Benny Elon (Molodet) - "Both from the legal and financial perspectives he is strong. I'm just concerned by all the energy that's been expended in recent days by the government. It's neither proportional nor logical."

BACKGROUND

Free-marketeer Ne'eman no stranger to Finance Ministry

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Although the post of finance minister - to which Ya'acov Ne'eman was named yesterday - will be a new one for him, the ministry itself should feel familiar to the man who served as its director-general from 1979-1981.

As a law professor and highly-regarded expert on taxation, Ne'eman first made a name for himself in politics in the late 1970s when he penned the National Religious Party's economic platform. In it, Ne'eman called for greater privatization of state-owned corporations and for decreased government bureaucracy and intervention in the markets.

Ne'eman's chance to join the civil service himself arrived soon after, when Yigal Hurvitz, Menachem Begin's new finance minister, made him his director-general and chief adviser.

Ne'eman's first tenure at the Treasury was a controversial one, marked by the unprecedented influence he brought to his post. Pundits claimed Ne'eman virtually ran the ministry, and that Hurvitz, his nominal boss, made no moves without first consulting him. Unsurprisingly, Ne'eman's power and tactics provoked much criticism - throughout his term in that office, colleagues grumbled publicly that he was dictatorial and short-tempered. Rumors of his dismissal circulated periodically, following a number of instances in which Ne'eman boldly declared new ministry initiatives, only to be later contradicted by an embarrassed Hurvitz.

Yigal Hurvitz resigned from the Treasury in January 1981, a victim of his inability to reduce inflation. Ne'eman, as the author of many of Hurvitz's failed policies, followed soon after. In 1986, the Bejski Committee found him partly to blame for the 1983 bank share collapse.

Ne'eman, 54, is a specialist in corporate, financial, and tax law, and co-authored one of the standard works on the latter subject. He has 15 years of experience as a partner in the prestigious corporate law firm of Herzog-Fox-Ne'eman.

Ne'eman is observant and has for many years been associated with the National Religious Party. In 1979, he authored an economic platform for the party, which called for accelerated sale of state companies, capital market reform, freeing up state land to ease the housing crisis, and canceling taxes on imported building materials - a program which Netanyahu would be happy to implement in its entirety. Like Netanyahu, Ne'eman has also consistently favored lowering income taxes, cutting budgets, reducing the

number of government employees, and reducing bureaucracy.

An area in which Ne'eman is likely to be useful to Netanyahu is in the thorny area of religious-secular relations, since he is trusted by both sides. His sympathy with religious interests runs deep. As far back as 1972, while serving as chairman of Bar-Ilan University's Law School, Ne'eman proposed a bill to give large families certain financial benefits, something which the religious parties have worked ever since to pass, finally succeeding during the last Knesset.

However, Ne'eman also has a proven ability to get along well with secular politicians from every side of the House. Former industry and trade minister Micha Harish appointed him to head a commission on encouraging film production, and former interior minister Uzi Baram (Labor) placed him at the head of a committee investigating financial irregularities in Bnei Brak. This committee ultimately recommended that the city's elected council be replaced by an appointed one until its finances were straightened out.

Ne'eman is also considered an opponent of the judicial activism represented by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, something which may have contributed to the rejection of his candidacy for a seat on the Supreme Court in 1982. However, the major factor behind his rejection was apparently the fact that, if appointed, he would have brought the number of Orthodox justices up to four out of 12.

Until his recent trial for obstructing justice, which resulted in his acquittal in May, the most serious scandal in Ne'eman's career was his involvement in the Bus 300 affair, in which the General Security Service killed two captured terrorists and then lied about it. Ne'eman helped broker a deal whereby then GSS chief Avraham Shalom and three assistants were given a blanket pardon without even being charged, in exchange for Shalom's resignation.

The deal, which spared the government the necessity of investigating the affair, was made without the knowledge of then attorney-general Yosef Harish, and was sharply criticized by jurists as undermining the rule of law and the office of the attorney-general.

Ne'eman also handled the late Robert Maxwell's business dealings here. However, despite the dubiousness of Maxwell's business practices elsewhere, there has been no suspicion of any irregularities in his Israeli operations.

Ne'eman is married with six children, and lives in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

Yitzhak renews petition

One year later, Ne'eman returns to government

By HERS KEINON

Globes journalist Yoav Yitzhak petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against appointing Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister.

Yitzhak is demanding that Ne'eman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu be investigated for violating the Party Funding Law, alleging that Ne'eman played a key role in illegally raising NIS 1.654 million from foreign donors for the Likud's 1996 election campaign. He suggested that Netanyahu gave Ne'eman the justice portfolio after the election to reward Ne'eman for this.

The petition also called on Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to investigate Ne'eman for interfering in the arbitration of a disagreement between Avraham Taub and Yosef Gutnick, who is a client and friend of Ne'eman's, Yitzhak said.

Immediately after Ne'eman was appointed justice minister last June, Yitzhak petitioned the High Court of Justice to bar the appointment, alleging that Ne'eman had committed a number of criminal actions that should prevent him from holding such a lofty post. The court dismissed most of the allegations, but were troubled by one: that Ne'eman tried to persuade a witness in the trial of Shas MK Aryeh Dori not to cooperate with the police.

On June 18, 1996, Ya'acov Ne'eman was sworn in as justice minister. Just over a year later he will be sworn in as finance minister. His road to, from, and then back to the cabinet has indeed been long and winding.

Ne'eman was named a candidate for justice minister soon after the elections, as part of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's declared plan to bring professionals - as opposed to politicians - into some of the top cabinet posts. The other professional he hoped to bring in was Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, as finance minister.

Neither Frenkel's appointment, which was rescinded soon after and given to Dan Meridor, nor Ne'eman's, was particularly successful.

The day after Ne'eman was being sworn in as head of the country's judicial apparatus, Globes reporter Yoav Yitzhak petitioned the High Court of Justice to bar the appointment, alleging that Ne'eman had committed a number of criminal actions that should prevent him from holding such a lofty post. The court dismissed most of the allegations, but were troubled by one: that Ne'eman tried to persuade a witness in the trial of Shas MK Aryeh Dori not to cooperate with the police.

In August, then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair decided to open a criminal investigation against Ne'eman for obstructing justice. Ne'eman resigned the next day, saying that "a public figure who wishes to prove his innocence against such a serious charge must resign, and fight for his honor."

Netanyahu said then that he had faith in Ne'eman's innocence, and would appoint a caretaker minister while keeping the ministry open for Ne'eman's return. Before resigning, Ne'eman launched a blistering attack on Ben-Yair, saying that he was out to stop his appointment from the first day. He also said that some in the State Attorney's Office were opposed to his appointment because he is an observant Jew.

State Attorney Edna Arbel decided to indict Ne'eman in November on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. The case went to trial, and in May the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court acquitted Ne'eman, paving the way for his return to the cabinet - if a place could be found. It took two months to find the place.

"We all suffer tests... I hope and pray that no one [else] ever has to go through the experience of being tried on the grounds of an unfounded indictment," Ne'eman said after the court's decision.

Estranged father donates cells to save daughter

By JUDY SIEGEL

A man who had never met his seven-year-old daughter came from abroad to donate life-saving stem cells and save her from leukemia.

When the girl was only two, she suffered leukemia; after being treated with intensive chemotherapy, she went into remission. But after a while, the cancer returned and it was clear she needed a bone-marrow transplant. Since she had no siblings, a suitable donor was sought in bone-marrow registries around the world.

When no match was found, it was decided to use a new technique of taking stem cells from one of her parents, each of whom has a 50 percent tissue match to their child. Special equipment is used to collect stem cells from the blood, giving 10 times as many bone-marrow cells as when they are taken in a bone-marrow transplant and a 95% success rate in overcoming rejection by the patient's immune system.

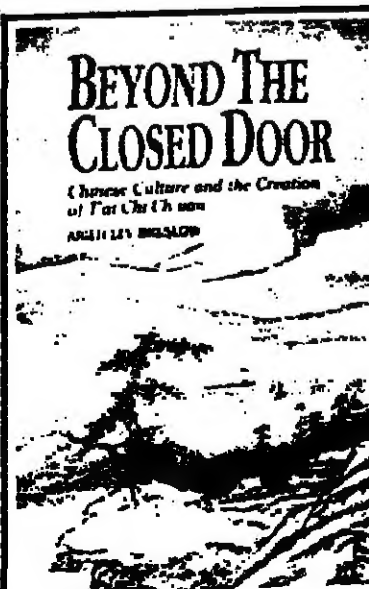
Since the girl came from a single-parent family, the stem cells were initially donated by her mother, but her body rejected them. After great efforts, the hospital then located the father abroad and he came two months

ago to donate the stem cells to the daughter he had never met. She spent the time since the procedure in a germ-free room at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel.

(SCMCI) and is now home; coming for treatment at the hospital's oncology department.

The technique for transplanting bone-marrow cells from the blood of a non-identical donor

was developed by Prof. Yair Reisner of the Weizmann Institute and Prof. Rina Zaitsov and colleagues from the SCMCI, with help from Prof. Massimo Mantelli from Europe.



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Garbage piles up yesterday on Rehov Yehezkel, adjacent to Jerusalem's Mea She'arim neighborhood.

(Brian Hestler)

Capital refuses to collect Mea She'arim garbage

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The Jerusalem Municipality has decided to up the ante against demonstrating haredim in the Mea She'arim neighborhood: Garbage bins in the area, which are regularly burned during demonstrations, have been removed, and no garbage will be collected "until the leaders of the neighborhood promise to stop damaging them," the city said.

The dumpsters were removed around 10 p.m. Sunday, after another night of protest against construction being carried out at what the haredim said is a burial site.

"It's been happening about two or three times a week lately," said Phil Levenson, a shift manager at the

Bonkers Bagels branch store on Rehov Mea She'arim.

"I don't know where we're going to put our garbage, that's a good question, we really haven't figured that out yet. We might just put it out here in the corner, where the city will hopefully pick it up. It'll start piling up, but there's not much we can do about it."

Levenson said he was forced to close his store an hour earlier than usual on Sunday, "because what happens is, during demonstrations people tend to run into the store when they're running away from the police. With 50 to 60 people zooming in here, and people getting tripped over, it can cause a lot of problems."

Most of the shop owners on the street feel that both sides are wrong, the haredim for burning the garbage dumpsters and the city for punishing the neighborhood for the actions of a few.

"This is not the way to handle the situation," said a bookstore owner, who refused to be identified. "I don't think that in Rehavia, for example, if they decided to hold a demonstration and damaged property that the city would decide not to collect garbage."

"Everyone thinks that Mea She'arim is outside of the general camp, an attitude of 'let them do whatever they want, they are a different breed, just leave them alone.' But the problem is that whatever

they do affects everybody else, especially those people who have stores here."

"You have to bring in the police and let them take care of it, the way it's supposed to be done, you don't let everybody suffer because a bunch of hoodlums decide they can go and take things into their own hands."

One owner of an art store wasn't worried about the garbage piling up.

"Are you kidding? They have one of their own [Haim Miller, of United Torah Judaism] as deputy mayor — you think he's going to allow this? He'll bring down the city if they don't pick up the garbage!"

N. African immigrants fighting to reclaim missing birth dates

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Thousands of North African immigrants are waiting for the Interior Ministry and the Jewish Agency to allow them to recover one of their most prized possessions: their birth dates.

According to a report in yesterday's *Ha'aretz*, the immigrants, who came here in the late 1950s, had their passports taken away from them on arrival for fear they would quickly leave Israel for France, where conditions were better. The passports, it emerged, were stored in the Jewish Agency archives, where they remain to this day.

As a result, the immigrants' exact birth dates were never properly registered in their identity cards, or were partially registered, with only the year of birth appearing.

Those seeking to have the full birth dates listed have until now had great difficulty in doing so, since the Interior Ministry insists they provide the original passports still sitting in the agency archive, or a birth certificate from their home countries, which are often extremely difficult to obtain.

Benny Maimon, 57, of Mevasseret Zion, said that when he immigrated in 1957, his passport was taken

away. "The Jewish Agency people told us at the time that they were taking the passports from us so that they could bring in more Jews. They were lying," he said. When he got together with friends at a party recently, he said, "almost half those present had identity cards with only their year of birth listed."

According to the report, there are some 22,500 passports waiting to be claimed. Jewish Agency spokesman Eldad Adar said there were really only about half that number, though he did not downplay the historical wrong done to the immigrants.

"Apparently in those days they had different policies regarding immigrants. If anyone tried to do this today, there would be an outcry," he said. "Nonetheless, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg has given orders to look into the matter, and we are going to check on the legal aspects of this issue and review it with the Interior Ministry. We hope that ultimately, all the passports will be able to be returned to their rightful owners."

The lack of proper registration of their birth dates has caused problems for the immigrants, particularly those approaching pension age. According to the *Ha'aretz* report, there are some whose years of birth

are registered incorrectly, meaning that some already eligible for pensions or National Insurance Institute payments may not be granted these rights for another several years, or until they can prove their real age.

Nissim Tibi, 70, of Moshav Yamiv near Netanya, claims that immigrant documents were taken away even earlier than the 1950s.

"I immigrated as a counselor with the youth aliyah from Tunisia in August, 1949," he recalled by phone yesterday. "We came on a collective passport, and when we got to Israel, the Jewish Agency officials took it away. As a result I never had a full listing of my birth date in my identity card. It just says the year, 1927. As a result, when I was supposed to start collecting National Insurance Institute payments in January, 1992, I had to wait about six months before they would start payment."

A National Insurance Institute spokeswoman said yesterday that in cases when a complete birth date is not listed, NII officials were instructed to begin payment beginning in April of the year listed, "so some immigrants in this situation benefited, too."

An Interior Ministry spokesman was not available for comment last night.

Greek Orthodox-Wakf dispute remains unresolved

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Despite a recent Jordanian report that a solution had been found to the dispute between the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and the Moslem Wakf in Jerusalem, there is still no solution in sight.

The dispute arises from an incursion by builders, carrying out renovations at the Khanka Salahieh Mosque in the Old City, who annexed two rooms belonging to the Patriarchate. The rooms had been used by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros's representative

in Istanbul, who was away. When officials of the Patriarchate tried to visit the rooms, they found the doorways blocked with cement and the representative's belongings flung into a nearby corridor.

Mosque representatives say the area is part of an ancient mosque.

Metropolitan Timothy, the secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, said yesterday that the Jordanians had indeed sent a delegation to meet with Diodoros.

"The Jordanian delegation visited his beatitude and stressed the desire of the Jordanians to solve this problem amicably. We all feel that it should be solved amicably," he said.

The Jordanians had proposed exchanging the two rooms for St. George's Church in Kerak, east of the Dead Sea, he said. The church, he said, had been a place of worship for both Christians and Moslems, but a Jordanian court had ruled that it belonged to the Moslems.

According to Timothy, Diodoros asked the Jordanians to put their offer into writing. So far, he said, the Jordanians had failed to do so.

"The matter is not yet solved. The case is not over yet," Timothy said.

Dan Shilon quits Reshet management

By HELEN KAYE

Popular broadcaster Dan Shilon yesterday resigned his position as co-general manager of the Reshet TV franchise and host of the highly rated Monday and Thursday night talk show on Channel 2, to form his own production company.

Reshet, however, "will have first refusal of everything that we do, including the talk show," said Shilon, intimating that the franchise will very likely continue the program, which has audience ratings of 29%-32%.

Shilon praised his association with Reshet, saying that he came to work daily "with a song in my heart. He commended the company's forward looking and people-oriented policies and said that his resignation was timed to coincide with the "end of the regular season, with enough time to prepare for next season."

The decision to resign, Shilon said, was based partly on the desire to be



Dan Shilon (Sarah Uziel)

relieved of the pressures of his job as a manager and broadcaster and partly on the desire to be independent after years as an employee.

There "is no fiction between me and the Reshet board and there are no secret deals with any other company here or abroad."

Shilon's fellow director, Yohanan Zanger, said that "it has been a privilege to work with one of the central figures in local broadcasting. We are all sorry to see him go."

Channel 2 takes on Treasury

By HELEN KAYE

The Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) has mounted a massive lobbying campaign in the Knesset to prevent Treasury-sponsored legislation that would partially strip the STRA of its fiscal autonomy.

The Knesset Finance Committee is due to meet tomorrow to discuss an amendment to the current Second Authority Law which would oblige STRA to transfer all royalties it receives from its various franchisees to the Treasury. Currently all royalties are funneled to the Treasury through STRA, which reserves a predetermined portion of those royalties for its own use. It also receives all license fees.

"This is a move which is in direct contravention of the principle which established STRA as an autonomous public company functioning within the private sec-

tor, and independent of the public purse," said the STRA Public Council chairman Prof. Gideon Doron at yesterday's press conference. "If the Treasury gets control of our funds, then the authority's flexibility and ability to cover events, especially the news, will be compromised."

Since 1994, STRA has paid the Treasury NIS 33.7 million in royalties out of a total of NIS 86.2m. The estimated royalties for 1997 are NIS 48m, of which only NIS 6m are earmarked for the Treasury. This is because the fees for frequency allocations have gone up from NIS 9m in 1995 to NIS 10.7m in 1997 and the satellite link fees have also gone up by NIS 1m in the last two years.

STRA general manager Nahman Shai has requested a freeze on the issue until Ya'acov Ne'eman is installed as finance minister, but did say that "the Treasury's real aim is to raise the fees the franchisees pay for their licenses to cover the loss of the royalties to STRA."

Responding, the Treasury said "the STRA's suggested budget exceeds the ceiling on expenses determined by the Budget Law. The royalties belong to the state and the STRA cannot withhold them at will."

AT THE KNESSET

Knesset committee protests Olmert's lateness

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday called off a meeting after Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert failed to turn up on time to address it on the Palestinian Authority's activities in Jerusalem. Olmert arrived 20 minutes late, and in the meantime MKs had convinced committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) to cancel the meeting in protest.

Labor whip Ra'anana Cohen complained that Olmert's lateness was an insult to the committee and noted that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy had canceled recent meetings with the committee at the last moment.

Ministry to clamp down on illegal workers' employers
At a meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee on foreign workers yesterday, the direc-

tor-general of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, Yigal Ben-Shalom, said the ministry is taking steps to better enforce the relevant regulations among the employers and to impose the highest possible fines. He also said there is a proposal, which has been presented to the state attorney, to make the employment of illegal workers a criminal offense. He said the ministry wants the costs of employing foreign workers to be higher than employing Israelis.

Shmuel Narkiss of the Internal Security Ministry said the main problem is workers who enter legally but stay after their visas expire. Batya Carmon, head of the Interior Ministry's foreign visa department, and Rafi Cohen, director of the Population Registry, both said the problem is with border control.

Deputy Superintendent Shimon Sharvit, the police officer in charge of Ben-Gurion Airport,

said there trend is to identify in advance illegal workers who are trying to enter as tourists. Some 3,000 people were deported from the airport for this last year.

MKs to meet PA reps in Athens
A group of coalition and opposition MKs is scheduled to fly to Athens tomorrow to meet with senior Palestinian representatives. The meetings will take place over a five-day period.

MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), one of the delegates, said the group includes MKs from various parties "who are concerned about the recent developments in the territories and the deadlock in the diplomatic process. I fear the latest developments could — Heaven forbid — bring about an outbreak of violence. All dialogue with Arab neighbors is important."

The MKs are from Labor, Yisrael Ba'aliya, the Third Way,

Gesher, Meretz, and Shas.

The trip is being organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, a Tel Aviv-based group.

Elul presents motion to fire Netanyahu
MK Rafi Elul (Labor) yesterday presented the Knesset plenum with his motion, submitted several weeks ago, to remove Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from his position. The vote will be held at a later date. It requires a majority of 80 MKs to pass. This is the first time an MK has used clause 27 of the Basic Law: The Government, which allows for such a move.

If it were to pass, the premier could be removed without the need to disperse the Knesset. New elections would be held just for the prime minister.

Elul claimed Netanyahu has failed in a number of political and social issues.

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مكاتب العمل

Gaullists pick new leader

By PAUL-HENRI DU LIMBERT

PARIS (AP) — President Jacques Chirac's Gaullists elected former parliamentary leader Philippe Seguin to be their new party chief Sunday, hoping the popular politician will lead them back from last month's stunning election loss.

Seguin, still a member of parliament and mayor of the eastern town of Epinal, told the Rally for the Republic (RPR) he would open "a new and decisive page" for the currently shaken Gaullists.

"I know, as you all do, that the task awaiting me, which awaits us, is immense," the stout, bushy-browed Seguin told a special conference of party activists.

He received 78 percent of the party activists' votes.

Seguin, 54, replaces former premier Alain Juppe as president of the RPR, and has been the party's de facto leader since leftist parties soundly defeated Juppe's conservative coalition in parliamentary elections June 1.

The leftists of new Socialist Premier Lionel Jospin won by promising to fight France's 12.5 percent unemployment ahead of Juppe and Chirac's attempts to trim France's budget deficit.

Seguin, as president of the

National Assembly, also had criticized Juppe's budget cutting, which was aimed at meeting conditions for joining a common European currency. Seguin also resisted Juppe and Chirac's attempts to reform France's generous health and welfare system.

Though Seguin changed his mind to support monetary union during the campaign, he made no mention Sunday of the common currency, the euro, which is scheduled to debut in 1999.

Seguin also sidestepped one of the Gaullists' biggest points of internal dispute — whether to become more like the far-right National Front party, whose candidates drew crucial votes from the conservatives.

A poll published Thursday said conservative voters want the Gaullists and their allies on the mainstream Right to adopt the anti-immigrant policies of the Front.

The Front won 15 percent of the first-round vote by blaming immigrants for the country's crime and high unemployment, and threatening mass deportations.

Seguin ignored other party officials who called for a harsher anti-immigrant stance, but accused Jospin and the Left of conducting a "miserable and dangerous strategy" of nurturing the Front to erode the conservatives' support.

By JONATHAN CLAYTON

MADRID (Reuters) — NATO leaders are to convene here today for a summit called to inaugurate a new European security order and seal the West's Cold War victory by admitting former communist enemies into the alliance.

But before the start of the historic meeting, a transatlantic row over how many countries to invite to join the most powerful military alliance ever assembled threatened to overshadow the birth of a "new NATO."

France and Italy, backed by seven other European allies, are leading a campaign for Slovenia and Romania to be admitted to the club along with former Warsaw Pact foes Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

The United States, which has led the campaign to expand the 16-nation NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), has made clear it will only back the accession of the three main candidates in the first wave.

"The heads of government are

going to have a really serious discussion on their hands," a senior alliance diplomat said.

"Only they are going to be able to resolve this." The dispute goes to the heart of moves to build a new European security architecture by spreading NATO's "zone of stability" further east in parallel with new cooperative relationships with Russia and Ukraine.

Supporters of the wider enlargement say both Romania and Slovenia fulfill the basic criteria of a functioning democracy and market economy and their inclusion would have a positive impact on the edge of the Black Sea and Balkan danger areas.

They argue failure to include the two will create new divisions in Europe and leave precisely the type of security vacuum enlargement was meant to eradicate.

But President Bill Clinton, who says only Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic are ready for the burdens of membership, has to face growing domestic opposition to enlarge-

ment in the Republican-led Congress which must ratify the plan.

In a pre-summit editorial *The New York Times* declared: "Given the absence of a clear threat to Europe and the possibility of so many unpredictable consequences, NATO expansion seems a gratuitous risk." Clinton, who spent the weekend relaxing with King Juan Carlos on the Spanish holiday island of Majorca, has ruled out any compromise, angering Europeans sensitive to accusations they are mere spectators at a US-run NATO show.

Before the two-day summit officially kicks off today, a series of high-level meetings was slated to try to agree to the consensus by which NATO operates.

NATO officials predict a "lively discussion" with the Europeans pushing for strong commitments of future enlargements before backing down.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi urged Clinton yesterday to trust European judgment on the issue. "Europe

cannot be denied its views on problems in its own region," he told *The International Herald Tribune*.

"We should not forget that ethnic rivalry inside Romania was one of our nightmares regarding the future of Eastern Europe, and they have resolved the issue," he added, saying Italy would stick to its position.

Germany, Europe's wealthiest and largest state, could be crucial to the final outcome, but — reflecting divisions between military and political advocates — is itself divided.

Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said on Sunday the first wave should be limited to three members, even though Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Bonn could support adding five.

"There are not five but 12 states wanting to enter NATO and there is no way we could take in all 12 at once," Ruehe said.

NATO's military experts fear a wider enlargement could make the alliance unwieldy and reduce its effectiveness, particularly as it comes at the same time as an overhaul of its command struc-

tures equipping it for more Bosnia-style peace missions.

Solana said on Saturday the summit would still be a success. "Out of this alliance and out of this summit, everybody will be a winner from the point of view of security. No country will be a loser," he told a Madrid news conference.

"We are not going to create new divisions in Europe. On the contrary, we are going to erase them."

US officials said they were braced for a blast from President Jacques Chirac, who has said Paris's conditions for rejoining NATO's military wing have not yet been met. Chirac's spokesman said last week, however, that Paris would not "take hostage" the leading three countries about which all agreed, just to press for the inclusion of Romania and Slovenia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who signed the Founding Act of a new cooperative relationship with NATO at a summit in May, has stayed away from Madrid to avoid giving the impression of endorsing the expansion Russia still dislikes.

Opposition wrests Mexico City in first mayoral election since 1928

By TIM LOUGHRAN

MEXICO CITY (New York Times) — Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who failed in two bids to be president, was elected mayor of Mexico City, trouncing the ruling party by a 2-1 margin as he captured almost 50 percent of the popular vote.

With more than 70 percent of the vote counted, Cardenas won 48 percent. His closest rival, Alfredo del Mazo of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) had 25.5 percent. Carlos Castillo Peraza of

Why the vote for change? Page 9

the center-right National Action Party (PAN) had 18.6 percent.

As the first elected mayor of Mexico's capital since 1928, Cardenas now plans to push the Democratic Revolutionary Party's (PRD) agenda of lower taxes, higher spending and more revenue sharing to the nation's 31 states for a third run for the presidency in 2000.

To a hotel ballroom full of reporters and cheering supporters, Cardenas said, "We have won the city. Let's get set for the year 2000!" Later, to thousands of cheering, flag-waving PRD supporters in the capital's Zocalo Plaza and above the crackling of fireworks, Cardenas returned to the center, anti-corruption themes that helped deliver his apparent victory.

"We must govern with honor and responsibility," Cardenas said.

The popularity of Cardenas, who founded the center-left PRD in 1989 amid discontent with the free-market economic policies of the ruling PRI, helped the party win about 26 percent of the nation's vote for the 500-seat Chamber of Deputies.

With 80 percent of the vote for Congress counted, the PRI captured 38 percent while the center-right National Action Party (PAN) captured 27 percent.

Del Mazo conceded defeat to Cardenas less than 90 minutes after the official vote count began. Shortly thereafter, President Ernesto Zedillo said Cardenas and the PRD could count on his "unwavering support." Still, Cardenas's election is certain to make life difficult for Zedillo as the campaign for the presidency begins.

"The decibel level in Mexico is headed way up," said Del Mazo, the head of the Mexico Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. "Everyone will have to learn to live and work together like they never had before," Baer said.

A two-time PRD presidential can-



The new mayor of Mexico City, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, waves after claiming victory at a press conference on Sunday. (Reuters)

didate and former PRI governor of Michoacan state, Cardenas is the son of the late president Lazaro Cardenas, who served from 1934 to 1940 and is remembered fondly by Mexicans for his nationalization of the railroads and the oil industry. He also helped organize the Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), still the nation's largest and most powerful labor union.

Cardenas inherited many of his father's concerns for social welfare, splitting from the PRI after he felt the party put too much emphasis on free-market economic policies at the solution to the country's poverty. He was a vocal opponent of the decision to sign a free trade agreement with the US.

Those policies have unnerved

some investors and financial market analysts. "A [Cardenas] victory will mean a higher level of political uncertainty," said Felix Boni, head of Mexico equity research at ING Barings.

Cardenas has moved to the center in recent years, however. And while he still says he would re-negotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, now he encourages foreign investment and the reduction of government red tape.

Moreover, the mayor's powers are limited under Mexico's highly centralized system. The mayor has no say over taxes and can't even appoint the police chief.

Cardenas's victory could widen divisions within the PRI by giving the PRD the national stature it's

long been denied.

"In the past, the PRD was seen as inconsequential since it was so small and hadn't won anything major," Baer said. "With a big victory like this under its belt, the PRD will see a lot more defections" from the PRI.

During the campaign, Cardenas criticized the ruling party and Zedillo for failing to curb government and police corruption, slash the bureaucracy, and reduce personal and corporate income taxes.

As mayor he'll almost certainly demand greater federal spending on economic development projects and will be joined by PAN elected officials in calling for Mexico City and the country's 31 states to get a greater share of federal tax revenue.

share power with Rarariddh.

Ranariddh said he fled Cambodia for France on Friday after hearing about the impending coup. "My generals advised me to leave Cambodia or I would be in danger," Ranariddh said on Sunday from a residence in France.

At least nine people have been killed since Hun Sen launched his push Saturday, according to hospital officials and diplomats. Another 50 people have been seriously wounded.

Soldiers loyal to Hun Sen's formerly communist Cambodian People's Party appeared to be consolidating his power, but they faced stiff resistance from Ranariddh's supporters, particularly in an area near Phnom Penh University.

'First Lady' of US Navy dies at 98

By KEN RIDDLE

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) — Roberta Gorsuch Burke, a tiny, self-effacing widow whose quiet selflessness and lifetime of service brought her the unsought title of "First Lady of the United States Navy," died July 4 of cardiac arrest at her home in Fairfax, Virginia. She was 98.

Burke was the widow of Adm. Arleigh "31-Knot" Burke, a celebrated World War II hero, who, as three-term chief of naval operations from 1955-1961 led the tradition-bound navy into the nuclear age and became arguably the most commanding figure in its history.

But as President Clinton noted in his eulogy at the admiral's funeral last year, a large part of Arleigh Burke's success was built on the unique partnership he shared with his wife of 72 years.

"You have blessed America with your service and set an example for not only navy wives today and to come but for all Americans," the president said.

"Bobbie" Burke was as slender, shy and soft-spoken as her husband was bear-shaped, gregarious and full-speed-ahead. But from the moment they met on a blind date in Annapolis, Md., she, like him, was married to the navy.

A native of Lawrence, Kansas, she had moved with her family to Westminster, Maryland, during World War I and soon ended up working for the Treasury Department in Washington.

When her older sister was invited on a blind date with a midshipman and backed out, Burke went instead and was introduced to her future husband.

They were married June 7, 1923, the day he graduated from the Naval Academy.

Her quiet strength, serenity and mischievous wit won so many friends that at her death she was still receiving hundreds of letters a year from navy wives and foreign diplomats grateful for her example.

Japanese diplomats sought her out annually until her final days. Queen Frederika of Greece used to end state visits to the US by flying off formally from Andrews Air Force Base only to circle her plane and land again unobtrusively in order to spend a week or more with the Burkes. Thirty years ago at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, Burke was mistaken for actress Helen Hayes. At the Reagan White House, one evening, Hayes reported being mistaken for Bobbie Burke.

Yet Burke always downplayed her achievements as the routine contributions of "a sailor's wife," the epitaph she chose for herself on the tombstone adjoining her husband's in the Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis.

Burke was honored with a special "Salute to a Sailor's Wife" dinner last fall at the Naval Memorial.

There, Margaret Dalton, wife of the secretary of the navy, declared her still "first lady of the navy" despite the passage of 35 years since her days in Admiral's House, now the residence of the vice president.

The Daltons are flying back from Europe for Burke's funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Naval Academy Chapel where she was married.

A navy spokesman announced it will be "a large funeral with everything short of military honors."

The Burkes left behind no children.

"The navy was their family," the spokesman said. "And the navy will be there."

Patten: UK ignored Hong Kong's tilt toward democracy

By TED ANTHONY

HONG KONG (AP) — Less than a week out of office, former governor Chris Patten has thrust himself back into Hong Kong politics with accusations that Britain ignored the former colony's leanings toward democracy in an attempt to appease China.

His allegations drew condemnation and denial from his government in London. And Paddy Ashdown, leader of Britain's opposition Liberal Democrats, demanded the release of documents shedding light on what he termed a matter of the "gravest seriousness."

Patten said London, under former British foreign secretary Lord Howe, entered into a "gentle understanding" with Beijing to renege on a 1984 British promise to introduce direct elections in Hong Kong starting in 1988.

Government polls conducted in the colony in 1987, Patten said, were shaped and framed in "spectacularly imaginative ways" to imply that Hong Kong's citizens neither valued nor really wanted democracy.

"There is absolutely no doubt at all that the majority wanted direct elections," Patten said in the *Sunday Times*, in an interview with broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, who chronicled the last governor's years in Hong Kong for a TV documentary.

"If I were a citizen of Hong Kong, I would regard it as very bad that I hadn't been kept in the know and that my views had been treated in this way," Patten said.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty on July 1 under a 1984 Sino-British agreement called the Joint Declaration.

Patten, long an ardent defender of democracy in Hong Kong, provoked Beijing's ire shortly after arriving here in 1992 by reforming the election system.

He sounded his theme to the last, saying in his farewell speech last week that democracy should be the territory's "unshakable destiny."

Patten's latest remarks could well be as personal as they are ideological — a response to British diplomats who claimed his democratic reforms were a futile exercise that aggravated Beijing into aborting the legislature.

Cambodia plunges into chaos as Hun Sen seizes capital

By GRANT PECK

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA (AP) — An attempted coup has plunged Cambodia into chaos, with tanks rumbling through the capital and thousands of terrified residents trying to flee fighting between Cambodia's feuding prime ministers.

At day's end Second Premier Hun Sen's forces seemed to have the upper hand and the claimed to have seized control of the Cambodian capital. Throughout the day yesterday mortar, rocket and machine-gun fire sent residents streaming out of Phnom Penh by foot, bicycle and motorbike.

Scattered rocket and mortar rounds pounded the capital, setting fire to a fuel dump that tossed black smoke high into the sky.

Forces loyal to Hun Sen, the man who launched the attack, tried to shut down roads out of Phnom Penh, but they could not stop the widespread exodus. Hundreds of people lined the banks of the capital's Tonle Sap River, desperate for a ferry ride to safety. Meas Vanna, who quickly packed three bags and grabbed her four-month-old baby, was among them.

"I'm very scared of the shelling around my house," she said. "A shell hit one of the homes next to mine and it caught fire."

Armored personnel carriers and tanks roared through Phnom Penh's streets while Hun Sen went on national radio to deny he was leading a coup attempt. He has accused his rival, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, of preparing for war. "This is not a political dispute between one party and another, nor is it a coup d'etat or a civil war like Ranariddh the traitor has declared," Hun Sen said.

The country's airport remained closed. Phones lines, down for most of the day, were restored by evening.

Hun Sen, who holds the military upper hand in the capital, said Prince Ranariddh's royalist party could rejoin the now-shattered coalition government — but said he would refuse to

share power with Ranariddh. Ranariddh said he fled Cambodia for France on Friday after hearing about the impending coup. "My generals advised me to leave Cambodia or I would be in danger," Ranariddh said on Sunday from a residence in France.

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Treasured post

When Binyamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister last year, he was not only the youngest man ever to be elected to that post, he was also one of the most inexperienced. He had never been a minister before, let alone prime minister. His aides sometimes compare the troubles he has encountered in his first year to those of another young leader who had a rocky beginning: US President Bill Clinton.

Though the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister, after weeks of false starts and haggling, is a good one both for Netanyahu and the country, the process that engendered the changes were hardly an example of Netanyahu being a master of his own destiny.

At the time of this writing, it is still unclear whether National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon or Ne'eman was Netanyahu's first choice to replace Dan Meridor. What is clear is that Sharon was headed for the post and for a spot in the inner security cabinet (the "kitchenette"), along with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy, until those two ministers decided that Sharon would make one too many cooks.

Levy, in fact, called for abolishing the "kitchenette," and argued for his exclusive control over foreign policy. As usual, Levy's classic combination of pouting, disappearances, and veiled ultimatums worked, and the "kitchenette" is no more. Instead, Netanyahu simply reserves his right to consult with whichever minister he wishes on any issue.

While political commentators will busy themselves in the coming days with pronouncing winners and losers in this whole episode, the more important question is whether Netanyahu's having a government more to his liking — given the departure of Meridor and Ze'ev Begin and the restoring of Ne'eman — means that the government will function more effectively.

One test will be of the strength and competence of the incoming finance minister. Ne'eman's stint as Treasury director-general, though only for a relatively short time many years ago, will give him a leg up over many previous new finance ministers. He does not have a political power base of his own, but he does enjoy the confidence of the prime minister and the respect of the cabinet as a seasoned professional.

In fact, Ne'eman's appointment to such a senior post will become a test case for the proposition that competent non-politicians can

and should hold key spots in the cabinet. The model here is, of course, the American government, in which the entire cabinet is appointed by the president and often includes non-politicians. Ne'eman's US counterpart, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, for example, comes from a Wall Street background and was never an elected official.

If Ne'eman succeeds, he could not only provide a boost for the principle of professional rather than political appointments, but could restore some of the luster to the new, more presidential, system of government that Netanyahu's troubles have tarnished.

So far, the direct election system seems to have produced a government with increased nominal power at the top, but with almost as much vulnerability to the vicissitudes of coalition politics as previous governments. This first major cabinet shuffle may help realize some of the promise of the new system, both by solidifying the coalition and by introducing a professional into a key ministry.

The other major question in the balance is whether there will be an even greater concentration of foreign policy responsibility in the hands of David Levy, and if so, how this will affect the management of the peace process. The greatest significance of an increased role for Levy could be avoiding future coalition crises, rather than any detectable change in the government's approach.

In the wake of this latest shuffle, Sharon will not be finance minister, but he will evidently be more involved in the formulation of security and foreign policy. The reason for this is Netanyahu's belated realization that Sharon can be a constructive partner if brought into the tent, as opposed to a formidable opponent when left out in the cold. What's more, Netanyahu may have prudently concluded that there is no reason to put the economy at risk by having Sharon at the Treasury, just to include him in peace process decision-making.

The cabinet shuffle and associated changes may amount to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, or they could be what is needed to give the government a new lease on life. The basic ingredient for success, however, will not be the exact nature of the new arrangements, but whether Netanyahu is able to combine decisiveness with consultation. Netanyahu has amply demonstrated his skill at amassing political power; his keeping that power will depend in the end on showing a similar aptitude for governing.



Real estate for sale

DAVID NEWMAN

When Ariel Sharon, as national infrastructure minister, decided to adopt the recommendations of the Ronen Committee, it signaled a major change in the way land in this country is managed.

What it means is that some previously state-owned land will be privatized, enabling land to be traded on a free and open market. Many of the rural communities, especially the moshavim, will be able to expand their settlements by constructing new residential neighborhoods at the expense of previously state-held agricultural land.

For many moshavim, the Ronen Committee only authorized an already-existing situation. But many people fear that widespread adoption of the committee's recommendations will open the way to unfettered development, damaging the country's landscape.

The state owns over 90 percent of the country's land, administered by the Israel Lands Authority. As owner of the land, the state can determine not just who buys land, but also to what uses the land is put.

In line with the dominant planning ideology of the '50s and '60s, rural and agricultural settlement was given priority over the establishment and expansion of towns. Most of the land was given over to the rural authorities, the regional councils, as a means of preserving it for agricultural use, and preventing uncontrolled urban expansion and land speculation.

This changed dramatically in the wake of the mass immigration from Russia in 1990-91 and the hurried construction of new urban neighborhoods in virtually every town throughout the country.

The housing minister of the time — Ariel Sharon — was granted an emergency mandate to find a quick solution to the housing crisis caused by the mass immigration. Sharon put his bulldozer

capacities into action, making the most of his newly-acquired powers and bypassing virtually every planning and zoning regulation in effect until then.

By the time the emergency regulations were rescinded, the damage had been done. Much of the agricultural landscape in the country's center had disappeared, covered by expanses of concrete, much of it at low density in areas

Can Israel hold onto the country's land while promoting privatization?

where land is at a premium. There are no heroes in this tale. Another feature of the changing use of land has been rural communities turning fields into shopping malls and open green spaces into industrial parks. They have justified this cashing-in by citing the huge debts of the agricultural sector.

The development towns, for their part, have been pushing to have land forcefully transferred from the regional councils' control to theirs. If land is now open to speculation and private profit, they argue, why should the regional councils profit from land allotted to them by the government in the '50s at no cost, while development towns are strangled and unable to expand?

Supported by Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, this approach is causing consternation amongst the regional councils.

It is not surprising that the narrow 13-12 vote in favor of adopting the Ronen Committee's rec-

ommendations was opposed en bloc by the 12 representatives of the Jewish National Fund, who are members of the ILA directorate. For them, continued state ownership of land cannot be evaluated in economic terms. Their uppermost consideration is the political and ideological importance of land continuing under collective ownership on behalf of the Jewish people.

THERE are no absolute rights or wrongs here.

Those who see it as essential that the state continue owning land to prevent it being sold to "undesirable" elements will oppose the Ronen Committee's recommendations.

Conversely, those who consider it essential that Israel undergo the privatization promised by Prime Minister Netanyahu, with the economy being released from much of its highly rigid and centralized government control, will see the recommendations as a step in the right direction.

The real problem is that the two objectives clash.

Even limited privatization cannot occur without a loss of state control; equally, the state cannot continue owning land while releasing the planning institutions from rigid and over-bureaucratic obstacles to development.

It is hard to untangle the motives of Sharon himself. As a nationalist politician, he surely wants to retain Jewish ownership of land; at the same time, however, he is pushing for massive unrestricted development throughout the country.

How ironic it would be were Sharon's policies to lead to Israeli land being sold to foreign elements.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

Bad boy and good boy

MAUREEN DOWD

He was a guy who'd been one too many places. Who prowled the night, after what was left of the day went away like a pack of cigarettes you'd smoked. With rain hammering at the window, with a sloe-eyed brunette and a ravenous red-head both working to frame him, he wondered just how big a dump he could get to be. He didn't want to die, but if he had to, he'd die last.

Did anyone look cooler with trench coat, fedora and the cigarette that lived in his face than Robert Mitchum? There is no more sultry film noir than Jacques Tourneur's 1947 *Out of the Past*, with Mitchum and Jane Greer. The lighting alone is better than anything that comes out of Hollywood these days. And there are moments when the dialogue verges on literature.

A taxi driver to private eye Mitchum: "You look like you're in trouble." "Why?" "Because you don't look like it." The words "legend," "hero" and "myth" echoed last week.

And certainly Robert Mitchum and Jimmy Stewart — our archetypal bad boy and good boy — were stars in a burn-a-hole-through-the-screen way that barely exists nowadays.

But what was really striking about these two men was how proudly "unmythical" they were. They lived in a time, unthinkable today, when celebrity was not the enemy of modesty. They worked hard, but never talked about how hard they worked. They wanted to be natural, even if people then assumed they were not acting.

Jimmy Stewart agreed with a reviewer who sniffed that he could only play Jimmy Stewart.

"The only kind of role I can really play is someone I can understand: a pretty average kind

of man, probably trying to work out some kind of problem the best way he can without calling too much attention to himself," he said. "Someone... yeah... like me."

From the winsome loony Elwood P. Dowd (no relation) in *Harvey* to the obsessed detective Scotty Ferguson in *Vertigo*, his "average" guys covered a wide range.

Like his sometime date in the

Mitchum and Stewart make today's Hollywood stars look like pasteboard

'30s, Ginger Rogers — a "swell" girl — Stewart was extraordinary for his representation of the ordinary.

Robert Mitchum spoke so offhandedly — "I don't care what I play. I'll play... women, midgets, anything" — that some, like Katharine Hepburn, scorned him as mere beefcake. ("Her stomach rumbles," he riposted.) Compare his chilling, easy menace in the original *Cape Fear* to Robert De Niro's muscle-bound Max Cady in the remake. It's the difference between artistic self-effacement and inartistic self-aggrandizement.

Stewart and Mitchum put great effort into looking effortless. In one year alone, 1943, Mitchum made 18 movies. In the year he shot to stardom, 1936, Stewart made eight. "I came out here as a contract player at MGM, and I went to work every day," he said. "It might be a big part in a little picture, or a little part in a

big picture. You learned your craft by working at it. You crawled before you walked." Compare this to the ludicrous way Hollywood now operates.

WHEN she was 18, Alicia Silverstone gave a fetching performance in *Clueless*. Immediately showered with a \$10m. two-pic deal, she set up her own production company. This is insane — and distracting. At 20, she shows up again on screen as a pudgy, sluggish Baigirl.

If the stars of yesterday seem more authentic, it is because they had a signature, a fingerprint, a tone, that was unmistakably theirs.

They were themselves and nobody else. No one walked like Robert Mitchum. No one talked like Jimmy Stewart. No one did a double take like Cary Grant. No one fit up like Audrey Hepburn. No one raised an eyebrow like Vivien Leigh.

They didn't spill their guts about their psyches. It didn't matter that Ingrid Bergman's accent was Swedish instead of Spanish in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Clark Gable, as Rhett, needed no drawl.

In today's Hollywood, anyone with star potential wants to stretch.

Why must Kevin Costner inflict a bad English accent in *Robin Hood*? Why would we want to see Michelle Pfeiffer play a pallid wallflower in *Frankie and Johnny*? Why would we want to watch Sharon Stone do a Susan Hayward imitation in *Last Dance*? Why would we want to see Julia Roberts with shaved eyebrows and no makeup in *Mary Reilly*? We live in an age without limits now, and so the junk Hollywood turns out is limitless.

(New York Times)

Never again...

HELEN MOTRO

Like Mark Twain said, "Giving up smoking is easy — I've done it dozens of times." Half of Israel could say the same about El Al.

Imagine asking the wrinkled, exhausted passengers sardined into the arrival bus at Ben-Gurion: "What about your next trip?"

In one voice, the chorus would arise: "El Al? Never again! I was bumped from my flight, my pre-assigned seat evaporated from their computer, they ran out of pillows, with my asthma they seated me in the smoking section, there were fewer blankets than passengers, the overhead closet was full."

"I ordered vegetarian and got glatt, all the Marlboros were sold out after the first three rows, the duty free cart snuck by as I slept, they interrupted my dream for a microwaved bagel, they lost my bag."

"I couldn't see the screen, there wasn't enough room for bending down to take off my shoes, my legs/neck/spine got a cramp, I had to wait 45 minutes for the bathroom... no, never again!"

Will the company stay in business one more season? A miracle if it does.

And yet, were you to ride that bus 12 months from now, chances are you'd meet up with the same folks just landing on El Al from Miami, El Al from Bangkok, El Al from Montreal, El Al from Rome.

How to explain this paradox? Are we a nation of masochists? I think not.

Taking my own experience as representative, let me analyze my long and rocky love affair with our national airline, going back to the historic date I uncramped for the first time from an El Al prop-jet to emerge into the perfumed Israeli night.

The flight had lasted the scheduled 17 hours, with a five-hour delay in Paris thrown in for good measure. But I was more forgiving of inconvenience then, and wrote in my travel diary, in my neat childish print: "There are many stars out tonight." My Israeli uncle waited hours outside Lod Airport for our family, leaning wearily against the wire

...will I fly El Al - except that I always do

fence, holding a bunch of wilted carnations.

Flowers are still on sale at Lod (now Ben-Gurion), and chances are that the carnations you buy today won't be wilted when you get off your El Al flight. But you may be too enervated to notice.

EL AL has not aged any better than my old diary, the only difference being you can't hold an airline together with packing tape. Yet since that maiden transatlantic hop in '59, El Al and I have been wedded to each other on the Tel-Aviv-New York route.

I have brought forth excuses for the lack of personal comfort, for the spotty service, like: "The whole world knows El Al pilots are the creme de la creme!"

And security? The best — in case, God forbid, it should ever be needed. What minor bodily discomforts in the face of Greater Safety?

And, yes, there was also that righteous feeling of "buying blue-and-white" back when the concept still carried a semblance of credibility.

Every time I fly, I vow to book another carrier. Then I remember that via European lines I will have to fly five hours to the Continent, cool my heels for half a day in their airport, then tack on another seven-hour flight. And as for TWA — the memory of Flight 800 is still too close for comfort.

Somehow, and despite everything, no matter where you want to go, El Al seems to be the one that can get you there fastest.

So, willy nilly, there I was again last week, gritting my teeth and boarding the El Al red-eye to New York. And do you know, I might have saved myself the advance aggravation: The flight was a dream.

Yes, the 400 over-demanding passengers treating the impossible as their birthright were still there. But the service with a smile we received on Flight 001 would have put the Queen Mother to shame.

They say every nation gets the leaders it deserves. Maybe it gets the airline it deserves too.

El Al behaves as outrageously as its passengers — and, in rare instances, as outstandingly as they can.

So El Al and I have had a reconciliation. There'll be no divorce. The partnership goes on, for now.

The writer is an attorney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TUMULTUOUS MONARCHY

Sir, — The Israeli public seems not to have realized how much the recent behavior of both government and opposition is a consequence of the new Basic Law on the Prime Minister and the Government. For although the law was proposed in order to reinforce democracy, it has effectively turned Israel into a monarchy.

Admittedly, the monarch is elected for only four years at a time, but during that period he is endowed with truly monarchic powers. Members of his parliament may yearn to cut off his head, but they can do so only by cutting off many of their own heads too, whether in the resulting elections or already in the party primaries.

The governing coalition has been reduced to the role of courtiers who seek favors from the king by fawning upon him. Or, if that does not work, they can try throwing tantrums. For instance, they may refuse to participate in the ritual confirmations of the monarch's authority that take place on Friday mornings in the palace and on other afternoons in the parliament building.

As for the opposition, the law has turned it into court jesters, that is, totally powerless individuals who have been granted a license to address the king with gross rudeness. Amongst their vain insults is the claim that the latest deteriorations in Israeli political behavior are all the king's fault — confirming that in a monarchy everything is seen as emanating from the king — whereas fault should be ascribed to all those who agitated or voted for the basic law.

The sponsors of the basic law thought that they could reform a tumultuous democracy by changing the electoral process. They succeeded only in turning Israel into a tumultuous monarchy.

Future reformers might consider the following. The real problem is not the forms of government, but the tumultuous style in which Israelis participate in public life. Like other manifestations of the *yesser bara*, this style cannot be eliminated, but only brought under better control. Laws alone cannot do this. Nor is the electoral process the best place to start.

MALCOLM LOWE

Jerusalem.

NURSING PROFESSION

Sir, — The article by attorney Helen Motro entitled "Nurse Barbie" (June 25) was one of the most offensive pieces to the profession of nursing I have ever read. Masked in the language of gender equality was the message that nursing is not a profession worthy of today's woman's aspirations. As a man who has worked in this profession for over 20 years, I was just as offended as any female nurse would be by this article.

Nursing, as a profession, has been responsible for some of the most important advances worldwide in public health in the 20th century. Without nursing the battles against tuberculosis and the spread of venereal diseases would have been lost. The midwives who have delivered hundreds of thousands of healthy babies are nurses. Our mother-and-child clinics, providing pre- and post-natal care to our mothers and babies are run primarily by nurses.

In the hospital, the story is the same. Without nursing, the operation performed by the "more important" woman doctor would be a failure as the patient goes from the surgeon in the operating room (supported by a highly skilled nursing staff by the way) to the recovery room — where the patient's survival now depends on skilled nursing care alone. After release from the recovery room, more skilled nursing care is necessary to ensure that the patient's recovery goes smoothly.

A professional nurse today can look forward, if desired, to earning a doctorate in nursing and many nurses currently have, or are studying to obtain, their master's degrees with the support of nursing administrators nationwide.

Under the guise of feminism, Ms. Motro perpetuates the myth that professions that have historically employed more women are of lower worth than those professions that have primarily employed men. This is one of the most anti-feminist statements that can be made and is one of the things true feminists are fighting. True feminists and humanists are fighting for recognition of each individual's contribution to a better society regardless of gender and their ability to choose to enter any profession regardless of gender.

STUART GOLDSTEIN

Ramat Yishai.

DANGEROUS WATERS

Sir, — On June 10, I was snorkeling at the Coral Beach reserve in Eilat. I went into the water off the bridge and snorkeled out about 100 meters in 10 meters of water. As I turned back the current became suddenly deadly dangerous. I tried to fight the current, but it was impossible to make headway; I felt myself being pulled out. I worked for at least 10 to 15 minutes; in that time I bade goodbye to all my children and grandchildren, husband and loved ones. I began to scream "Help me." At first no one heard me, then several visitors heard and swam to save me, risking their lives.

I know there is a notice in the reserve that you enter the water at your own risk. Nevertheless, this is an area visited by thousands of tourists and there should be a life-guard on duty, or minimally a system of flags to warn visitors not familiar with the local ocean currents.

The City of Eilat should take responsibility for its beaches and nature reserves so that deadly situations such as this may never recur.

GITEL (ROSENWEIG) WEINBERGER

Jerusalem.

SAME-SEX COUPLES

Sir, — I refer to the news report of June 20, "Conservative Movement condemns lesbian marriage ceremony." Rabbi Einat Ramon claims that, although the Conservative Movement recognized the rights of the gay community, it would be a mistake to make such a marriage a norm.

With all due respect, I consider this statement to be hypocritical. In my view, same-sex couples have the right to choose whether to validate their relationship or not, and if they choose to do so, they are free to select the method — a religiously oriented ceremony or a civil one. Moreover, I view this right as being no less important than other rights that same-sex couples have.

RAZ JOSEPH

Beersheba.

BOOK REVIEW

By ANITA FINKEL

GODDESS: Martha Graham's Dancers Remember by Robert Tracy. Littlefield Editions. 323 pp.

Calling a book about Martha Graham "Goddess" rather than the more obvious "Priestess" is attention-grabbing. Graham, the leader of the modern dance movement from the 1930s through the 1960s, never dubbed herself a goddess as Robert Tracy does here. But there is a rationale in his title. His book is a compilation of interviews and reflections about Graham by dancers who worked with her throughout the decades. To these people, Graham was a goddess.

Anyone looking for a comprehensive overview of Graham's life and achievement on the scale of Agnes de Mille's magisterial *Martha* will not find it here. What they will find, however, are snippets of memory and impressions meaningful to those who cherish Graham and her world.

Individual observers vary in their astuteness and reliability. Connoisseurs should turn immediately to the chapters on Matt Turney and Robert Cohan, both of whom saw what was going on around them with great perspicacity. About Martha's first solo "The Ancestress," Turney comments: "My Ancestress" role never worked. ... Martha was very dissatisfied after the first rehearsal. Mostly she used the old directors' tactic: destroy (the performer) emotionally in order to break through to another level."

For Cohan, a New Yorker who took the Graham legacy to London, it was love at first exposure, and a sharp perspective on Graham herself. "Martha was able to be everything for you: man, woman, director. She could initiate any movement she gave you as a man. For instance, the men's movements in 'Letter to the World.' She did them and she looked more male than any of us — stronger, more masculine." The nebulous, technically undefined role of the male dancer in the Graham company was a struggle

Goddess of dance



Martha Graham: Letter to the World, 1940.

for virtually every distinguished dancer who entered the company, from Merce Cunningham to Paul Taylor.

Cunningham observes: "I was more prone to use my legs primarily than Graham ... what I kept seeing were those women able to do all those shapes on the floor with their legs." For Paul Taylor: "With Martha he-men were the equivalent of a male Barbie Doll. We were sick-like

figures who were basically sex objects."

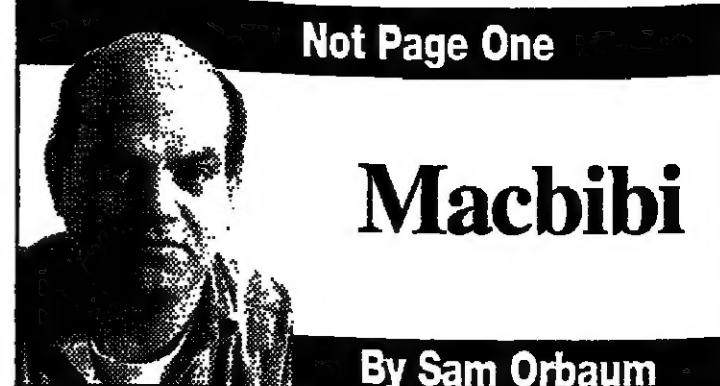
The most controversial male in the Graham repertory was her husband, Erick Hawkins, with whom she eventually feuded. Among the women of Graham's early group, Hawkins — the first male dancer to be engaged — was hated and resented. "It was very difficult for me," Hawkins sums up. "Martha blacklisted me for I don't know how many years

when I couldn't perform at the American Dance Festival. I was shut out of Juilliard. It is really a tribute to one's talent that one could transcend all that and come out strong. I almost didn't survive Martha Graham."

In Graham's later years, she relinquished roles to other women and promoted Ron Protas, a dance neophyte who later saved her from alcoholism. "Martha sold her soul to

Protas," observes Jane Dudley, who calls him "His Royal Nibs." In the end *Goddess* never struggles with the critical issue of the Graham "oeuvre" and how it will be judged by future generations. In the end, Yuriko's words stand out as a tribute to her: "No one could duplicate what Martha Graham did, even when she couldn't dance."

(Barbara Morgan)



Not Page One

Macbibi

By Sam Orbaum

At first it seemed like much ado about nothing: as Pamela Peled was preparing a lecture on *Macbeth*, she was struck by the similarities between Duncan's assassination and Yitzhak Rabin's, which had just occurred that day.

A year and a half later, the Kfar Sava Shakespeareologist thought again about how unfolded both world and stage, and she found herself bethump'd with words.

Macbeth, Duncan's "kinsman and subject" ("and people do not kill their own"), knows that the assassination of their leader, "who hath borne his faculties so meek," would cause such distress in the country that "heaven's cherubim ... shall blow the horrid deed in every eye, that tears shall drown the wind."

Macbeth is spurred on to his evil deed by a coven of witches, cackling their ghoulish words into his eager ears. "One can almost visualize black-robed elders, swaying in fervent devotion, chanting the words 'rodef, rodef, rodef' as Yigal Amir and his ilk listen mesmerized." (Peled's words, not Shakespeare's.)

Macbeth wants to believe some supernatural force is leading him on. Rabin's slayer knew God was on his side. Mind you, at least Macbeth suffered some qualms.

With Labor's love lost, the

Lady Macbeth, his "dearest partner in greatness." She is like a short of snuff for his wimpiness. "Screw your courage to the sticking-place, and we'll not fail."

She is at his side at banquets, at business meetings and affairs of state. He sleeps her everywhere.

Here's where it gets good. "Lady Macbeth has one problem, however. She has a cleanliness fetish. (Go on, smile, it's good for you.) She is obsessed with washing her hands, even rubbing at them in the dark with the haunted injunction 'out, damned spot! Out, I say!'"

With a bit of creative editing, we ingeniously cleave her neurosis to the peace process: "Will these hands ne'er be clean? ... Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh! Oh! Oh!"

At this point, Peled indulges in talmudic interpretation.

"We are not told how long

Macbeth sits on the Scottish throne, raising the question: how long does it take a leader to ruin a country?"

"By the end of his rule, chaos reigns. 'Alas poor country!' Ross laments. 'Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot be called our mother but our grave, where nothing but who knows nothing is once seen to smile; Where smiles and groans, and shrieks that rent the

'Macbeth tastes power and likes it. He is lucky: the new king did not have to present a government to his voters, or reward his longtime associates.'

Israeli Left ends up pretty much where Duncan's heirs did; Macbeth, and Binyamin Netanyahu, take power. (You have to allow for some literary license here, transmuting Netanyahu into one of the "murdering ministers," which Leah Rabin might like to believe. Peled does not get into that: "Amir didn't want to rule, but cast his vote for the successor.")

"Macbeth tastes power and likes it," quoth Peled. "He does not want to be beholden to any former allies. He is lucky: the new king did not have to present a government to his voters, or reward his longtime associates." Not unlike Netanyahu, who assumed unchallenged power as the first directly-elected PM.

Forsooth, "I have bought golden opinions from all sorts of people." "No sooner does he sit down on his throne, than he starts planning their downfall. Banquo is eradicated. Macduff is next in line. Everyone is spying on everyone else."

"He [Macbeth? Netanyahu?] doesn't trust his friends. He doesn't have friends. His natural allies have turned against him. Distrust and fear rule the land."

Well, things ain't exactly peachy nowadays, are they? "But Macbeth forges gaily along, buttressed by his wife,

air, are made, not marked; where violent sorrow seems a modern ecstasy."

The Scottish people can't keep up with it all. Every week a new scandal. Confusion has set in.

"Macbeth himself sees that things are not going according to plan. He admits to his wife that he can't eat his meal in peace, and sleeps in the affliction of terrible dreams. He carries on, regardless, for another two acts."

Alas, we are not privy to Bibi's dreams, but it's a fair guess that these days he doesn't coo in his sleep.

We may be comforted that Shakespeare always resolves matters with some measure of satisfaction. "Tragic heroes die but their goodness lives on. King Lear dies, but England is reunited. Hamlet is stabbed, but order returns to Denmark. In Scotland, at the end of *Macbeth*, peace is restored."

Is Peled's theory supported by the Bard himself? Is this a case of "two truths are told, as happy prologues to the swelling act of the imperial theme?"

Or maybe, as Macbeth said about life itself, this is "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Perhaps we shall know tomorrow. Or tomorrow. Or tomorrow.

Scanners identify voice and eyes

By DAVID E. KALISH

Forgot your bank card? No problem. The automated teller machine pans a camera across your eyeballs to verify your identity. Checking out of work? Just press your palm on the surface, and your hours are clocked.

What sounds like high-tech fantasy is starting to show up in real life, giving rise to a new class of futuristic gadgets that can scan a person's eyes, hands or voice and instantly verify the person's identity.

Among other uses, the "biometric identity" devices are being tested in automated teller machines as a substitute for plastic bank cards and personal identification numbers.

The trend is driven by improvements in technology that are pushing down costs, as well as by heightened fears about security. Indeed, the highly publicized slaying of a US schoolteacher, apparently for his bank-card number, has emphasized the need for a better method for screening bank-account holders.

"I think it's going to make people think a little bit more about security," said Erik Bowman, an industry analyst with *Personal*

Identification News, a US-based industry newsletter. "Biometrics is a way to solve that."

Demand for the scanning devices, while still small, is growing rapidly. Up to \$25 million in biometric identity devices are expected to be sold this year, up 45 percent from 1996, according to *Personal Identification News*. That is expected to double by 1999.

A variety of factors are at work. Improvements in technology are driving down prices for the devices, making them more affordable to banks and other security-conscious businesses. And word is spreading about the benefits at a time of heightened concern about flaws in traditional methods such as ATM bank cards.

New technology that uses sophisticated scanning devices to identify people, instead of bank cards and PIN numbers, is aimed at thwarting crime.

Currently being tested by Citicorp and other banks is a gadget developed by Sensor Inc. that enables an ATM to read a person's iris to verify their identity.

Sensor's IrisIdent system uses special cameras to scan the cardholder's face. A computer process-

es the image and reduces its components to digital code, figuring out which part of the face is actually the iris. The code for the iris and all its unique physical characteristics — representing everything from color to tiny indentations in

"Biometric identity" devices are being tested in automated teller machines as a substitute for plastic bank cards and personal identification numbers.

the tissue — is matched against a database of codes for all cardholders. No match, no transaction.

Sensor says it's signed a \$42 million contract with Tokyo's Oki Electric Industry to develop the technology for ATMs in Japan, starting in test markets in the second half of this year. In addition, Citicorp has invested \$3 million in

Sensor and is testing the technology for use in ATMs in the US, said Tom Drury, president and chief executive of Sensor.

An advantage of Sensor over other gadgets is that a person can stand up to a meter away from the camera to be identified, unlike technology that requires people to touch a sensor, such as fingerprint identification systems.

"You don't want to see people at ATMs having to put their finger in a hole," Drury said. "The real underlying issue is ease of use and related accuracy."

Not surprisingly, sensing devices first found a market in companies and government agencies concerned about security.

The business market is growing fast. Already, companies such as Coca-Cola and American Airlines are using Recognition Systems' hand-recognition technology for some employees instead of time cards and security badges. The devices "read" a hand's characteristics, such as size of knuckles and width, to identify employees.

Several banks are testing the product for ATMs, according to Scott Grabowski, a sales manager at the California-based Recognition

Systems.

"We wanted something that would be friendly and easy for the average person," Grabowski said.

For their part, MasterCard International Inc. and Visa USA Inc., the world's two largest credit-card companies, are studying whether it's feasible to use fingerprint-scanning devices to verify that the card user is really the card holder.

One possible bump in the road for the devices are worries among privacy groups that use of these devices will encourage a sort of Big Brother ability to monitor an individual's activities in unseen ways, eroding privacy.

"I think these technologies are really a double-edged sword," said David Sobel, legal counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a nonprofit group based in Washington.

"There will need to be a public debate about what the right way to use these systems might be." (AP)

Autistics are communicating in cyberspace

By HARVEY BLUME

Despite the diverse accounts of autism in books like Oliver Sacks' *An Anthropologist on Mars: Seven Paradoxical Tales*, the prevailing image of the autistic today is probably still that of the rocking child, prone to tantrums and averse to touch, or of an adult like the character Dustin Hoffman played in the movie *Rain Man*, who can instantaneously multiply large numbers in his head, but cannot connect with other people or take care of himself.

Yet anyone who explores the subject on the Internet quickly discovers an altogether different side of autism. In cyberspace, many of the United States' autistics are doing the very thing the syndrome supposedly deters them from doing — communicating — often in celebration of the medium that enables them to do so.

"Long live the Internet," one autistic recently exulted in an online discussion, where "people can see the real me, not just how I interact superficially with other people."

Another explained why she prefers online to face-to-face interaction: "Ordinarily," she wrote to other members of her e-

mail forum, "the giving of support involves being with someone, and that's always draining for me. If someone does give me support in person, I will have to spend some time recovering from the experience of receiving that support."

Both writers subscribe to *Independent Living*, a suite of e-mail forums created by and almost exclusively for autistics.

Reading faces is like looking into a rippling pond. I am too distracted by the edges, glints of light, to make much out of it.

Topics addressed by *Independent Living* (whose World Wide Web page can be found at <http://www.inlv.demon.nl/>) include jobs, hobbies, "sexuality and being different," and the recurrent question of how to relate to what the autistics refer to as neurologically typical people — or "NTs" in the community's parlance.

In a sense, autistics are constituting themselves as a new immigrant group online, sailing to strange neurological shores on the Internet, and exchanging information about how to behave upon arrival.

They want to be able to blend in, to pass, and are intently studying the ways of the natives in order to do so.

One recent *Independent Living* discussion, for example, was devoted to figuring out when NTs look into each other's eyes during conversation. The consensus was that the usual thing is to make eye contact when beginning

speech and when concluding, but that eye contact in between is optional.

Yet in trying to come to terms with an NT-dominated world, autistics are neither willing nor able to give up their own customs. Instead, they are proposing a new social compact, one emphasizing neurological pluralism.

The consensus emerging from the Internet forums and Web sites where autistics congregate (a good starting point is the *On The Same Page* site at <http://amug.org/a203/index.html>) is that NT is only one of many neurological

configurations — the dominant one certainly, but not necessarily the best.

As a rule of thumb, it might be said that what NTs do intuitively, autistics can accomplish only with great effort, if at all — and vice versa. For example, neurologically-typical people assess each other's mental states by noting small changes in voice, eyes and facial expressions. Yet this is as non-intuitive an activity for most autistics as, say, long multiplication is for most NTs.

This was brought home to me, an NT, when I asked an autistic e-mail correspondent, who is mordantly expressive online, what it would be like to meet. Not so good, he replied, indicating that personal contact confounds more than it informs.

"Reading faces," he wrote, "is like looking into a rippling pond. I am too distracted by the edges, glints of light, to make much out of it."

The impact of the Internet on autistics may one day be compared in magnitude to the spread of sign language among the deaf. By filtering out the sensory overload that impedes communication among autistics, the Internet opens vast new opportunities for exchange. (New York Times)

Pennies from Heaven

For forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukkah time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers. There's always a reason for giving to kids — holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid. So help us to help them.



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REVIEWS

in brief

Concerts

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra deserves an unqualified "bravo" for presenting Bartok's masterpiece *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* in its Subscription Concert No. 8, conducted by Ivan Fischer from Hungary.

The human tragedy of Bluebeard, compelled to renounce his hopeless quest for unconditional love, is described musically in this one-act opera by a mounting sense of menace and horror, tension and incessantly changing tone. These are expressed by the orchestra with immense intensity. Bass Kolos Kovacs's representation of the tortured, pleading, compassion-evoking Bluebeard was dignified and profoundly disturbing. Maria Lukin's dramatic mezzo-soprano expressed a wide emotional range, from love to determinedness. This was a spellbinding performance.

Olli Mustonen's rendition of Grieg's *Piano Concerto* was different from any previous interpretations of the work that one can recall. This freshness of approach was, however, marred by a lack of spontaneity. It often seemed as if the music was merely a vehicle for Mustonen's (albeit brilliant) virtuosic display. Priority was clearly given to the performer and not the composer.

Ury Eppstein

Classics from East and West, a JSO concert at the Rebecca Crown Hall in collaboration with the Center for Classical Oriental Music and Dance, was an odd affair which left a taste of missed opportunity. It opened with Shimon Cohen's eclectic *Jerusalem Sketches* in an indifferent performance by the JSO. The next number epitomized both the good intentions and absurdity of the whole enterprise: belly dance to the sounds of Paganini. Dancer Abigail Klein and violinist Batshava Savaldi-Kolberg were great in their respective fields, but belly-dancing and Paganini don't make natural bed-fellows.

Yehuda Schreier (guitar) offered a Jackaluster rendition of Tarrega's *Capricho Arabe*, which in other circumstances might have become the highlight of the evening as the classic example of the East-through-the-Westerner's-eyes opus.

Paradise for tar and orchestra, by Daghestan-born researcher and composer Peretz Eliahu, was intriguing and sounded authentic; the raving of Shlomo Tahalov's tar was pure. Akhmad Fuad Khassan's violin playing had its beautiful moments and Avraham Salzman's kanun playing was interesting, if somewhat monotonous.

Marsel Mussari's crossover to the classics was not a good idea - her *Stabat Mater* by Pergolesi was embarrassing. It was only Violet Salame who managed to ignite the house with her sensual rendition of Om Kolthom songs.

Maxim Reider

Festival



TI-Fer: Cajun sounds, British accents

There were fireworks - literally - at the Jacob's Ladder Folk Festival at Gan Hashlosha at the weekend. Organizers Menahem and Yehudit Vinegrad arranged for a colorful display of the "rockets" red glare" on Friday night to mark the Fourth of July. Some falling fireworks started a small fire near the automobile park and the fire brigade had to be called, but happily no real damage was done. The music was also a blast, with three overseas visitors on the Friday night's main stage.

The UK-based, five-person TI-Fer band produced rollicking, footstomping cajun music although their broad British accents somewhat muffled the French dialect in the songs. The two American duos, Cathy Fink and Marcey Marcey, and Mike and Kelley Stein, treated the large crowd who braved the heat-wave to some of the finest music in Jacob's Ladder's 22-year history. Both acts could be compared favorably to the legendary Tom Paxton, who sang at the same venue three years ago.

The Israelis did not let down the side, either. Yael Deckelbaum, Mouni Armon and the Monitors, Black Velvet and Celtic Camel all contributed to a great gig.

The only possible gripe could be directed at the late start, which resulted in Celtic Camel and Snokid's Gun having to take the stage after 2 a.m. The organizers blamed the delay, a perennial hitch at the festival, on problems involved in setting the balance for the many groups.

A possible solution would simply be to schedule fewer sets on the main stage. Acts "relegated" to a day stage would have no reason to be miffed. Most of the "day" performances ran to a high standard and this, too, contributed to an enjoyable weekend of music that more than made up for the disappointing condition of the swimming pools and the awful July heat of the Jezreel Valley.

Joel Gordin

Theater

Pie in the sky hasn't lost its appeal and dreams still get broken, says the Beersheba Theater production of Clifford Odets' *Awake and Sing*. Odets wrote it in 1935, two years after the New Deal went into effect, but he set it in 1932, the worst year of the Great Depression.

The Bergers are a working-class Bronx Jewish family who are kept from dire poverty by a grudging handout from wealthy elder brother Morty, deftly characterized by Ami Traub. Grandpa Jacob (Shlomo Bar-Shavit), with his talk of revolution, brotherhood and Marx, epitomizes pie in the sky. Daughter Henny's pregnancy and shotgun marriage are a metaphor for the fragility of dreams.

Director Rami Danon has adhered scrupulously to the period, thereby underscoring the play's local and contemporary resonance. Danon has been less successful with the actors, most of whom never progress beyond a single dimension.

The exceptions are Bar-Shavit and Hanna Roth, who plays the mother, Bessie. Bar-Shavit plays old Jacob with a touching desperation, and more genuine feeling than I have seen from him in years. Roth's Bessie is achingly human, and that is the play's final message. Humanity survives.

Helen Kaye

IN TUNE



For all its popularity here and in Britain, Prodigy fails to live up to its name.

One-chord wonders

By DAVID BRINN

Touted as the one unifying force in the late '90s, bringing techno, rap and rock into a cohesive whole, Prodigy in fact manages to make a shambles of each genre.

Fat of the Land, No. 1 in this week's Tower charts (see box below) has to be one of the vilest, one-dimensional discs released this year. Without a headful of Ecstasy, the album's 10 tracks offer nothing besides jittery trance rhythms providing the base for one-chord songs that compete with each other for the level of boredom they induce.

The only variations are provided by outsiders, with Kula Shaker's Crispin Mills contributing to *Narayan* and a spirited cover of L7's *Fuel My Fire* closing the dismal set.

Local heroes here and adored in their native Britain, Liam Howlett and company will not disappoint fans with this one, and will probably convert some tone-deaf rock fans in the process. But if this is the future of rock 'n' roll, then the past has never looked so good.

FOR a more optimistic take on the future, check out *Winston Rock*, a 15-track compilation by an organization devoted to the advancement of young Israeli rock bands.

Overseen by local rock guru Yoav Kutner, the compilation has some outstanding songs, provided

THE FAT OF THE LAND

Prodigy (Hellcon)

WINSTON ROCK

Various Artists (Nana Disc)

YOUNG MOTHERS

Ice Nine (NMC)

ALLURE

Allure (NMC)

STILL CLIMBING

Brownstone (NMC)

ed by bands like Jingo, Young Psychopath and Tractor's Revenge, as well as from old bands Rami Fortis and Barr Sakharov.

Recommended for the modern rock lover looking for a local angle.

THE DEBUT single by the young Israeli band Ice Nine (taken from a Kurt Vonnegut novel) is also a breath of power-pop fresh air.

Young Mothers, with its driving beat and jangly guitars, will sound just fine on a transistor radio at the beach this summer, the criterion for any great song.

HEY gals, you too can form a successful rock group! Just follow these easy steps: (1) get a bunch of very attractive women who can say "oooh, oooh baby" in lots of different ways; (2) Get the wife of the PR director of a

major international label to befriend you; (3) get lots of other famous rap stars to let you lift stuff from their successful songs; (4) even get them to cameo on your debut album, and (5) get a classy production team (Crave/Track Masters) who can compensate for your lack of talent by limitless studio tricks. It's easy!

Well, it was for Allure, whose MTV-ready looks round out this plastic packaged insta-hit that is as transparent as shrink wrap and not nearly as handy.

BROWNSTONE's second release, *Still Climbing*, uses some of the same tricks employed by Allure, but with much better results. First, this trio really can sing, and they claim that it took only one song, performed a cappella, for Brownstone to be signed to MJJ Music.

Indeed, with the backing of Michael Jackson, who co-produced their album, theirs is a collection of songs that are a joy to listen to. An interesting mixture by New Orleans-born Mimi, Detroit-born Nicci and Guyana-born Maxee, their versatile voices take turns leading, complimenting and unifying to create an intriguing album. All come from less-than-opulent backgrounds, giving their music a feeling of unpretentiousness. There's a little rap influence, but for the most part, it's weaker, AM-esque side is mollified by the musical talents these ladies display.

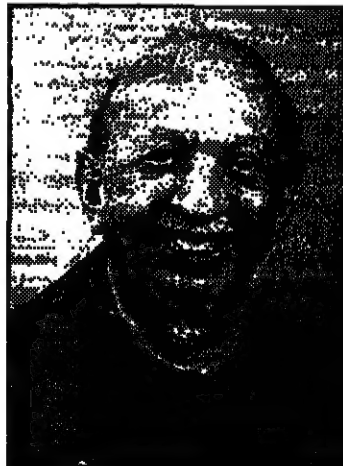
King David's lament

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Although 66-year-old Chilean-born Israeli composer Leon Schidlowsky is not a great believer in competitions, he was tempted when the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra announced a special competition to celebrate its 60th anniversary. Schidlowsky wrote *Absalom*, a 20-minute opus that has won the first prize in the competition and will thus be premiered by the IPO under music director Zubin Mehta later this week.

"I was tempted like St. Anthony," Schidlowsky recalls. Competitions might help young composers but I am as old as my people." And he adds, "I had no idea my work had actually reached the final stages of the competition. It was an anonymous competition and I came to the final round just by chance. Of course I am not unhappy that my piece won the first prize."

Why the story of Absalom of all the chapters of our history? "Take the Bible, open Samuel I chapters 13-18 and you will find the reason there," the composer says, and immediately recounts the essence of the story. "It begins with incest and then focuses on the tragic life of Absalom, who murders his brother



Leon Schidlowsky: A big fan of Arnold Schoenberg

er Amnon when he finds out that he has raped his sister Tamar. Absalom was a very popular man and although he was eventually defeated in the war between him and his father, King David, the king did not want his son killed. His soldiers thought differently though, and so the story ends with the father's lament over his dead son.

He explains that "adagio sections with strings and chimes" represent "the tears of the father who laments his dead son."

Schidlowsky's life is an ongoing mixture of teaching and composing. "I cannot live without writing music. I live for it, music is my life and I will continue to write until my very last moment."

As for teaching, "it is my duty. I like to teach but for me teaching does not mean showing the students how good I am. Teaching is a mission in which I try to give the students how much they need and help them find out how to express themselves."

Does Schidlowsky write in a specific Israeli style? "There is no typical Israeli style of music or any other national style, for that matter, in this day and age when information moves swiftly all over the world. Of course there are ways to confront the Israeli reality but I don't believe in all the so-called Mediterranean music that was written here. For me the greatest Jewish composer is Arnold Schoenberg and I can trace in his music a very clear influence from the world of Kabbala. Maybe he was unconscious of it at the time, but he became very conscious of it later on."

The IPO plays Schidlowsky's *Absalom* at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv this Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Tinseltown's novel approach

By JOHN HORN

The words "literary" and "Hollywood" fit together about as well as "subtle" and "Schwarzenegger" or "sportsmanship" and "boxing." For most movie producers, novels by John Grisham, Tom Clancy and Michael Crichton suffice: shallow plots, one-dimensional characters, and not too many big words or concepts.

Yet on the heels of the hits *Sense and Sensibility* and *The English Patient*, the industry is rethinking its reading habits.

A deluge of well-regarded books - including Rick Moody's *The Ice Storm*, Russell Banks's *The Sweet Hereafter* and E. Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News* - are now flowing to the screen.

More noteworthy, Hollywood's major studios are jumping on a literary bandwagon, ordinarily steered only by independent companies. Warner Bros. has made James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* (US opening September 19), the Walt Disney Co. will release Julie Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* (also September 19), Universal is developing David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars* and 20th Century Fox is adapting Mona Simpson's *Anywhere But Here*.

"It's never been easy to make a literary novel into a movie," says literary agent Bonnie Nadel. "But it's easier than it used to be."

The boom is not limited to novels. Among the accomplished nonfiction books heading to the screen are John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, Jonathan Harr's *A Civil Action*, Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*.

"There are filmmakers, producers and studio executives interested in telling good stories," says Rob Scheidlinger, whose Omnibus production company is adapting Honoré de Balzac's *Cousin Bette* for Fox Searchlight. "When we talk about artistic integrity, there's nothing like *Cousin Bette*."

Given the rash of high-priced underachievers dotting the summer landscape (*Speed 2: Cruise*

Control, *Batman and Robin*), the literary work-ups deliver relatively low-cost plots: It's one thing to demolish a Caribbean port or freeze Gotham City, another to film an angst-ridden family quarrel over supper.

Good novels generally yield good scripts - full of the sharply drawn, complicated characters real actors covet and will play for a song. Hence, the modestly budgeted *Ice Storm* (US opening October 10) features Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Joan Allen.



Blockbusters like 'Speed 2,' starring Sandra Bullock, may be going out of fashion.

Similarly, Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* (US opening November 14) is headed by Ralph Fiennes. *A Thousand Acres* stars Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Best sellers have built-in movie audiences. They also have built-in movie critics. Many readers of *Little Women* have an exact picture of how the movie should look. Problem is, all those pictures are different. Please one reader and you disappoint another.

Either way, Hollywood invariably turns ambiguous, even depressing stories into tidy, upbeat tales. Frumpy characters are played by drop-dead bombshells, dowdy slob by chiseled leading men. (AP)

COMMENT

Storm in a concert hall

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

At the premiere of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*, in 1913, the audience booed and hissed at the composer. This powerful opus about a primordial tribe offering human sacrifice to the powers of nature was much too harsh for the ears of the audience.

If I were maestro Zubin Mehta, I would have kicked up a storm at the performance of this work on July 3 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. As soon as the piece opened to the deeply visceral, almost primeval, sounds of this glorious opus, the sound of a cellular phone could be heard in the auditorium. Mehta chose to disregard this interruption, but I was ready to cry out "Enough!"

When will concert goers realize that they behave in a more barbaric way than the ancient tribes who practiced human sacrifice on a daily basis? Cellular phones could be the kiss of death of art on the eve of the next millennium. Maybe they should be confiscated at the entrance to the concert hall and be returned after the performance.

If I were Mehta I would also have been offended by the response of the audience at the end of the evening. After an elec-

trifying concert, in which the orchestra was in superb form and which Mehta conducted in a ravishing and riveting manner, there was nothing more than a short polite applause.

Even Itzhak Perlman's glorious rendition of the Elgar violin concerto, in the first part of the evening, received less than overwhelming applause. He was not even encouraged to play an encore.

What is happening to the Israeli mentality? Are we really so jaded that even the concert-going experience has turned into a very short escape that cannot be extended beyond its relatively short boundaries? Music and art give added value to our society. If we allow our daily stresses to penetrate these sacred minutes at the concert hall, then we will singlehandedly destroy art in general and classical music in particular.

In Europe, music lovers tend to applaud for 15 minutes after each concert. Why can't it be the same here?

After all, the level of performance from Perlman, Mehta and the IPO is one of the highest music lovers can experience. Has it really become that mundane for us? I sincerely hope not, because if it has, there is no point in even entering the concert hall.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEKS	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	2	PRODIGY	FAT OF THE LAND
#2	NEW!	1	VIA	HITMAN 8
#3	4	8	MICHAEL JACKSON	BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR
#4	NEW!	1	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL SHE TRITZI
#5	RE!	1	OST	SPACE JAM
#6	1	3	TEA PACKS	NESHKA LADOD
#7	3	3	RADIOHEAD	O.K. COMPUTER
#8	6	8	SUEDE	COMING UP
#9	8	21	YEHUDA POLKER	LIVE
#10	NEW!	1	VIA	HOUSE OF AGNOSIA
#11	7	8	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#12	10	67	RITA	COLLECTION
#13	13	6	HANSON	MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
#14	5	3	VIA	JE T'AME
#15	11	34	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

Donna Shirley's mission to Mars

The Pathfinder's project manager is feeling out of this world over the successful landing

By CARLA HALL

PASADENA, Calif. — (LA Times) — When she was a kid, she desperately wanted to go to Mars. Her rocket fuel came in the form of books like Arthur C. Clarke's *Sands of Mars*. But she quickly realized she didn't have a chance of being an astronaut. "Originally, you had to be a fighter pilot, have great eyesight, perfect health and be male," she said, laughing.

Now, she figures she's too old. People won't get there — if they do get there — for another 20 years, she says, and she's 55. "I think 75 is a little old," she said.

But, in a way, Donna Shirley did get there Friday, a little after 10 a.m. PDT when the Mars Pathfinder — created by the team of engineers that she put together and managed, financed by the money that she helped raise — landed successfully on cold, pre-dawn Martian soil.

In the Pasadena, Calif., courtyard outside the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, it was sunny and hot as Shirley, the Mars program manager, gleefully greeted colleagues. "Hey, Jim!" she shouted to Jim Martin, flashing a thumbs-up.

"This is the guy who was head of

the review board at Pathfinder. "He never thought we could do it," she added excitedly.

"I made you work, Donna," called Martin, the man whose job it was to be a professional skeptic and fish for problems with the Pathfinder journey before it ever started.

"Yes, you did!" she said.

She was the woman of the hour. People wanted her picture, her handshake, even her autograph — and these weren't tourists. These were the men and women who worked on the project with her or the people who worked on other projects and were watching colleagues enjoy success.

Shirley has been working on Mars-related projects in some way for 10 years. Before she became manager of the project in 1994, she led the team that created the rover, which resembles a quirky looking sport utility vehicle and will collect data on the planet.

In her bag, Shirley carried a Mattel Hot Wheels toy version of the rover.

"Yes, they're out, but they're very difficult to find," she said.

The media, meanwhile, desperately wanted her words; her way of explaining things clearly and smart-

ly and with a touch of creativity.

As she talked about the special air bags that deployed on the Pathfinder, she explained why the Pathfinder wouldn't land on a rock or boulder.

"The air bags are so big that if you were a rock, for instance, the lander wouldn't be close to you because the air bags stick out so much."

Even as she sat talking quietly on a bench, people occasionally slipped over and sat at her feet to listen.

"Why do I feel surrounded? When Donna talks, people listen!" she said, laughing.

In the meantime, she wanted to embrace and introduce every colleague who paraded by. She spotted the engineers who worked on the rover team.

"All right, you guys, it better work!" she teased them as they sauntered by.

"Sit back and leave the driving to us," said engineer Art Thompson.

A little more worried was Lin Van Nieuwstadt who designed the radios on the rover.

"Lin! Yeahhh!" Shirley called out to her.

"I am so nervous," Van

Nieuwstadt confided to Shirley. "I feel so sick."

Shirley, of course, was nervous, too. "Oh, I've been nervous for years," Shirley said as she found a bench in the shade of the hot courtyard and shed the tailored, red suit jacket ("Mars red") she had donned for a day of talking to television audiences.

She put herself to bed Thursday night at midnight with chamomile tea, waking up once at 2 a.m. and going back to sleep until the radio awakened her at 5:30 a.m.

When she learned that the Pathfinder had landed, she was sharing her excitement with viewers on CNN.

Her 20-year-old daughter, Laura Pivrotto, was watching. "Mom started crying on TV, and then I lost it," said Pivrotto.

"I was trying to do commentary," said Shirley ruefully. "I just got a little teary-eyed, and a lump in my throat... I almost hugged the anchorman but he fended me off," she said. "But we shook hands."

Shirley loves being an engineer and made sure that everyone knew that engineers were responsible for sending the vehicle on its seven-month trip to Mars. "These

aren't rocket scientists," she said proudly. "These are engineers."

"Scientists learn about nature," she explained later.

"Scientists need information... The engineers build the things that go get them the information."

Shirley always knew which one she would be.

When she was 10 growing up in Oklahoma, she decided she wanted to build airplanes.

And she despises the way the movies depict her colleagues. "It really frosts me the way they portray us," she said. "Scientists are always evil and engineers are nerdy."

She believes there is probably life elsewhere. To believe we are the only intelligent beings in the universe, she figures, is not only unrealistic, it's arrogant.

Even so, she's skipped the current crop of alien movies. "Hate 'em, can't stand 'em. I really detest violence in movies and the alien movies are always violent." But she liked *Contact*, the story of a radio astronomer who discovers radio transmissions from an alien civilization.

"The work we do is so incredibly exciting," she said. "This could be a movie."

The aliens among us

By DENIS MORGAN

NEW YORK (The Hartford Courant) — I have a boss who is an alien from another planet. Even in terms of bosses, the difference between a regular boss and a boss who is an alien can be so slight that you must remain wary for weirdness.

I keep a sharp eye on my boss. The government's latest Roswell disclaimer notwithstanding, I am absolutely sure that there is no better explanation for such an unearthly character in our midst. I think he comes to work in a black helicopter.

(Shouldn't I be a bit worried that he could read this and discover that the jig is up? Nope, the fact that he has let me scribble these things for so long is proof aplenty that he doesn't read them.) His rise to a position of authority with so little visible evidence of ability, connection, personality or social grace can only be explained by my theory that he or his egg arrived here in a space ship.

You would agree. I understand there's one or two around your place as well. I don't think the government has met our bosses or it wouldn't be so quick to discount theories about aliens in our midst.

It's hard to sustain a good conspiracy theory when so many are conspiring against us. Banding together in dark rooms, they are always trying to take away our conspiracies. They clutter up crystal-clear attitudes and opinions with facts and other such diversions. They can give us a lot of baloney about weather balloons and dropping dummies when, with my boss as proof positive, everyone in his right mind knows that there are aliens everywhere among us.

You've seen 'em.

Take Mike Tyson. Could you possibly believe that Mike Tyson is from anywhere but another planet? And that he is probably not welcome back? I strongly suspect that George F. Will is an alien, and it is only his love for baseball that raises an element of reasonable doubt. On the other hand, he likes the Cubs, which is an affection a bit too precious for my tastes. While we're there, I believe that the starting rotation and bullpen of the Red Sox are not of this universe.

In my wayward youth, I used to think that all Republicans were from outer space, but as I have mellowed over the years I have come to believe that several may not be.

Surely you know others who are probably aliens living among us.

The people who write all the comedies on the Fox Channel (*The Simpsons* excluded) and CBS have to be from another galaxy. It is beyond any earthly powers to produce such long hours of comedy programming which fail, even by accident, to draw even a wan smile from the viewers.

Television is full of aliens. Television audiences, notably on the home-video blooper shows, have to be from some other solar system.

These "people" will laugh at anything, or nothing. Would you laugh like a loon at such stupid things? Of course not.

They even laugh at *Friends* to try to appear human without noticing that no human has found anything to laugh at on *Friends* in years.

There are some very strange creatures out there who enjoy celebrity and popularity without ever having done anything to earn it. Speaking of Ed McMahon, Dick Clark has to be an alien, and hopefully the cameras will not be on when he crumples into instant alien decrepitude as is likely at any moment. This is not going to be a pretty picture.

The audience will laugh.

From quite a different planet must come Cindy Crawford, Toni Braxton, Uma Thurman, Diana Ross and Glenn Close.

I think that soccer and the metric system and Geraldo Rivera are devices foisted upon us from the folks from the planet Pluto, seeking to bring us down to their alien level, and you probably can trace their roots to Roswell somehow.

So, too, the eggs of golf, the Home Shopping Network, women's boxing, never reaching a human on the other end of the phone line despite 36 frog-hops from "press 1" to "press 3," telemarketing, fruit-salad teas, call waiting, whiney furniture salesmen on television, George Steinbrenner, most fashion designers and any body piercings. These things could not at all occur naturally.

Neither could the cockamamie ideas, management theories, memos, meeting schedules, mindless insistence on deadlines, attendance and other pernickety rule-mongering so popular with my boss the alien. He has to be from out of this world to spring all that on me.

Fortunately, I'm on to him and pay no attention whatever. It's my planet after all.



Staffers at the Pathfinder's Pasadena headquarters studied this week the Mars photographs, the fruit Donna Shirley's work.

(Reuters)

IN LATIN AMERICA

Why Mexicans voted for change

Behind the PRI's electoral setbacks lurk ordinary people's economic hardships

By SAM DILLON

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (New York Times) — Teresa Lasso, who owns a beauty parlor and is married to a veterinarian, voted for a leftist candidate in this week's Mexican congressional and municipal election, which resulted in some severe blows to the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

The hardest hit came from leftist candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who won Mexico City's first mayoral race in 69 years.

The PRI also saw its congressional plurality nearly disappear for the first time since its establishment in 1929.

To explain her vote, Lasso grabbed a pencil to scribble the disturbing arithmetic of her \$79,000 bank loan.

When Lasso and her husband, Guillermo, took out their variable-rate loan in pesos six years ago to build a house, they and Mexico were prospering, and for four years they made monthly payments, in pesos, that were equivalent to about \$660. But after President Ernesto Zedillo's government devalued the peso in 1994, interest rates soared and Lasso's veterinary practice collapsed.

"People were just letting their dogs and cats die," Lasso said.

Their loan payments completely overwhelmed their monthly income.

Today, their combined earnings are the equivalent of about \$1,250 a month, but the payments on their loan — if they were making them — would amount to more than \$2,125. They owe the

bank \$113,000.

"We think the economy is in crisis," Mrs. Lasso said, setting down her pencil. "President Zedillo says no, but nobody can pay their debts."

Like the Lassos, millions of Mexicans voted against the governing PRI, perhaps more than at any time since the party was formed in 1929. They cite many motives, among them a simple desire for new leadership after decades of single-party rule. But the biggest reason is that they continue to nurse wounds from an economic crisis the government insists has long since passed.

Before the crisis began two and a half years ago, the Mexican peso was worth about 29 American cents. In the course of a year, the peso's value eroded to about 13 cents — and with it the savings of millions of Mexican families. Prices on basic items like electricity, gasoline and even tortillas surged. About a million Mexicans lost their jobs, bringing the number officially out of work to about two million; unofficial estimates put the figure at three times that. The economy contracted by 6.2 percent in 1995.

Partly with the help of a \$12.5 billion American bailout loan, the Zedillo government has succeeded in nursing the economy's figures back into recovery, and today, the PRI is in trouble despite an economy that looks robust — on paper.

Last year, it grew by 5.1%, official unemployment and inflation are dropping and the stock market is booming. The problem is that many Mexicans don't yet feel the recovery.

"Our challenge is to convince

the people that the economy is as good as the numbers say," said a senior adviser to Zedillo.

All 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies were up for election on July 6; 32 Senate seats, six state governorships, and for the first time, Mexico City's mayor, who has previously been appointed by the president. Support for the PRI has eroded more completely in Mexico City than anywhere else, so the dominance of the mayoral race by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, of the leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution, or PRD, was not totally unexpected.

But the PRI has run into trouble in many parts of Mexico where it has previously faced little competition, including Cuernavaca. A city of 320,000 residents, an hour's drive south of Mexico City, Cuernavaca has never in modern times elected an opposition congressman. But this year, voters seemed unpredictable, as this week's historic results have indeed proven them to be.

Under Mexico's seat-allotment system for the Chamber, 300 deputies are elected directly from districts while 200 others are distributed to parties according to their percentage of the national vote. A party must win at least 167 seats directly and earn more than 42% of the vote to gain a majority; polls suggest that no party will.

In a national survey published on Friday by the newspaper *Reforma*, 37% of those polled preferred the PRI, 30% preferred the PAN and 26% the PRD.

Life in Mexico will change dramatically followed by the PRI's electoral setbacks, said experts such as Scott Morgenstern, a

political scientist studying the Mexican Congress.

Lacking the votes to impose their will, the PRI and Zedillo will now have to negotiate the national budget, and opposition lawmakers for the first time could set up committees with the power to investigate corruption.

The governing party's support has eroded partly because Zedillo's economists have stabilized Mexico's economy while failing to raise real wages, which according to a recent report by HSBC James Capel, a securities company, continue a 30-month decline. Mexico's minimum daily wage is worth about \$3, and the number of workers earning less than that is growing.

The Lassos' gripe is that the government works to bail out the bankers, while seeming to do little to help small-time debtors, and thousands of other Mexicans agree. A debtor's group that has joined forces with the PRD asserts it has 600,000 members and estimates that some 12 million other Mexicans are up to their ears in debt.

While the Lassos voted for the left, many others in financial trouble turned to the conservatives. Consuelo Martinez Gonzalez, 77, and her daughter, Hilda, 46, posted a campaign poster for the PAN into the window of their cement-floor home here, where Hilda earns a meager living by selling little black clay figurines of flowers and animals.

Both women were once PRI voters, but they turned against the party when Hilda's ceramics business all but collapsed in 1995, in the weeks after former

president Carlos Salinas de Gortari left office, the peso devalued, and Salinas's older brother was charged with corruption and murder.

"Salinas did a job on all of us," Hilda said, slapping her cheek to demonstrate how the crisis felt to her.

"We went hungry, and the PRI showed us no mercy," her mother said.

The two women like the conservatives' image of honesty and efficiency, and in municipal elections in March, they voted for the PAN candidate who became Cuernavaca's first non-PRI mayor. They have also become enthusiastic volunteers for the PAN's congressional candidate.

Some PRI stalwarts remain, like Alfredo Castaneda, the governing party's representative in Tetela del Monte, a working class Cuernavaca community that sprawls across a rocky hillside.

"Whatever you think of the PRI government, it certainly helped us," he said. "We had nothing, but now Tetela has sewer lines, paved streets, running water. It has all come from the PRI government."

Castaneda's role has been to channel public works to Tetela, and to deliver neighbors' votes to the PRI in exchange for the right to hand out patronage jobs. But since the PRI lost Cuernavaca's City Hall to the opposition in March, he no longer has jobs to give.

Which is why he had such little influence over the July 6 balloting.

"Before, we could tell people who to vote for," Castaneda said. "But now people vote for whomever they want."

EYE ON THE MEDIA

David Bar-Ilan

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BUSINESS

in brief

Yitzhak Levy: Road safety bill too costly

Implementation of the national campaign for road safety bill will prove to be too expensive, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday warned the Knesset Economics Committee, adding that the government would block its passage if presented in its present version. Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) then agreed to remove six sections of the bill dealing with high-cost items, enabling the watered-down bill to go to the plenum for its second and third readings. The changes reduce the main proposal to establishing an authority responsible for reducing road accidents. If this fails to work, Goldschmidt warned he will immediately introduce a new bill containing the six omitted sections. *David Harris*

El Al to cook glatt in London

El Al's catering services have opened a branch to prepare glatt kosher food in London. Like the kosher food division, the glatt kosher branch not only supplies El Al but other airlines whose passengers request kosher meals. According to El Al spokesman Nachman Kleinman, many of the requests for kosher food come from Moslems, who rely on the kosher supervision. *Haim Shapiro*

Updating computers for the year 2000

The Israel Association for Information Technology will hold a series of meetings dealing with the problem of updating computer programs for the year 2000. "Failing to keep up with the timetable for updating programs is liable to endanger the ability of businesses to function after that date," said Amiram Shorr, chairman of M.L.L. Programming Industries, who is also chairman of the association. *Judy Siegel*

Water commissioner: Reform plan insufficient

The proposals of the Arlozorov report on water prices do not sufficiently take into account the future water needs of the country, according to Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir, who was speaking at the initial meeting of the Knesset agriculture subcommittee on the subject. Sub-committee chairman Shalom Simhon (Labor) was also critical of the report, saying it does not take into account the requirements of farmers. *David Harris*

Textile industrialists petition Sharansky

A committee composed of industrialists from the textile industry has written Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky requesting that he implement measures to help the struggling industry. The committee said the government's interest rate and exchange rate policies, investment-encouragement regulations, and minimum wage laws are hurting the industry. Sharansky said he will study the committee's request. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Postal Authority unveils high-tech mobile service

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Postal Authority this week unveiled what is claimed to be the world's first computerized mobile post office to be linked by a cellular phone line to the Postal Bank computer.

The new facility was shown recently to members of the Knesset Economics Committee during a visit to Postal Authority facilities in Tel Aviv.

Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery said that a trial run of the mobile post office has been so successful, that by the end of this year, another 10 computerized mobile post offices will be shuttling around the country. There are currently 50 mobile post routes.

The cellular-linked mobile post office will give on-line banking

and telecommunications services to 1,000 small communities in the periphery, said Tery. Customers will be able to transfer vehicle ownership, receive National Insurance Institute payments, exchange foreign currency, send foreign currency abroad via Western Union and buy compulsory vehicle insurance from the Direct Insurance company.

Postal Bank director Moshe Tepper said that linkage to its central IBM computer will allow customers to carry out transactions in real time rather than order such services in advance.

The new mobile post office design was developed by a team from Masad (Computerized Postal Branches) headed by Gidi Goell, with help from Postal Authority staffers.

Koor Industries denies plans for demerger

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Koor Industries Ltd. has not discussed plans to de-merge its major activities, the company said yesterday, in a statement issued to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange at the close of the trading day.

But the statement said the firm will sell investments, dilute holdings and/or enter into joint ventures to strengthen its core businesses.

The company's Tel Aviv-traded shares rebounded 5% to close at NIS 331.59 yesterday, following reports that Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon had appointed a task force to explore the effects of a demerger.

Koor's announcement to the TASE, which did not comment on the reported task force, follows several weeks of press reports regarding an alleged dispute over corporate strategy between Gaon and Stanley

Gold, president of Shamrock, Koor's second-largest shareholder.

Gold has reportedly pushed for a demerger to boost Koor's profitability and offset losses recorded by Shamrock's other holdings, namely clothing retailer LA Gear and supermarket chain Grand Union.

Gold was not available for comment at press time.

Mickey Zellermeier, legal adviser to the Shamrock group in Israel, and Micha Geiger, Shamrock's local representative, are expected to meet with Gold in California next week.

The three are expected to discuss the possibility of breaking up the Koor concern.

In the statement issued to the TASE, Koor said that the company is currently acting according to a strategic plan that the board of directors approved in March.

"The strategic plan for the next several years includes focusing and expanding the company's local and international activities in Koor's three main business sectors: telecommunications and electronics, agro-chemicals and building and infrastructure materials," the statement said.

Recent reports said that Yossi Dauber, Bank Hapoalim's deputy general manager, met with Gold in London and told him that the bank would not execute the break-up.

A tender for the sale of Bank Hapoalim is currently under way, and the bank's legal counsel reportedly advised it not to make any significant change in its assets during the sale process.

Two consortia, one headed by US entrepreneur Ted Arison and the other by US investor Jeffrey Keil and Israeli businessman Eliezer

Fishman, are bidding for control of Israel's largest financial institution.

Yesterday, however, Bank Hapoalim spokeswoman Revital Ron said that the bank is "neither for nor against" the spin-off.

Neither of the bidding parties have contacted MI Holdings, the government company in charge of selling the banks, regarding the reports of a possible demerger, said MI's chairman Uzi Steinberg.

Sources close to the parties have speculated that the Shamrock group may decide to sell part or all of its 20% share in Koor if the investment does not start to yield profits. Gaon previously preferred to reinvest Koor's earnings rather than pay off large dividends.

Koor recently postponed a \$300 million Yankee bond issue, attributing the decision to a depreciating shekel.

Economic community welcomes Ne'eman appointment

By DAVID HARRIS

Ya'acov Ne'eman will turn the Treasury into a highly efficient and strong ministry, former Treasury director-general Ezra Sadan said yesterday.

"Ne'eman will try his utmost to implement the required budget cut as soon as possible," according to Sadan, who served as finance minister Yigal Hurvitz's economic adviser when Ne'eman was director-general of the Treasury in 1979-81.

The appointment has been widely welcomed in economic circles, with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel speaking to Ne'eman yesterday and urging an early initial meeting to discuss macroeconomic issues. In a welcoming statement, Frenkel urged tight cooperation between the two bodies.

Wishing Ne'eman luck, Manufacturer's Association president Dan Proper advised him that his first target must be the stabilization of the shekel exchange rate and the capital markets, to ensure renewed economic growth.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said he was pleased the three-week limbo at the Finance Ministry would now end, particularly with a round of public-sector wage negotiations around the corner. Peretz said he hopes Ne'eman will bring a fresh approach to the ministry after the difficulties of the last few months, in which there were several strikes over salaries and pension rights.

An expert on taxation, Ne'eman has written seven books on the economy and served on some two dozen public committees, most of which dealt with one aspect or another of the economy.

On the surface Ne'eman's record as director-general of the Treasury is not a good one: During his tenure, inflation skyrocketed and he, together with Hurvitz, was unable to control it.

However, according to Sadan, it was impossible for Ne'eman to act because he was politically prevented from linking the shekel to the dollar, which had to be solution. Following his exit from the ministry, Ne'eman worked behind closed doors to aid the Treasury in tackling the economic crisis, and was a major figure in preparing the 1985 austerity package, said Sadan.

"He will cooperate with the staff, and have a nice way of working with the government," suggested Sadan. "He knows the machinery so well, so if he can't control the budget he'll use budgetary discipline."



Conference on Internet commerce

British Minister for Science, Energy, and Industry John Battle (screen left) and B. Macintyre, head of the British government's Communications and Information Industries Directorate, make a video appearance at the start of a two-day conference on Internet commerce in Bonn yesterday. At the conference, 40 ministers from the European Union, the US, and Canada are to discuss global issues regarding doing business over the Internet. (Reuters)

Treasury proposes issuing municipal bonds

By DAVID HARRIS and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Treasury is preparing a bill that will allow the country's three largest cities to float designated municipal bonds, the ministry said yesterday.

This would be the first scheme of its kind here. The capital raised would fund specific projects and not become part of the pot used for administrative costs.

The bonds will provide an additional source of revenue, not a replacement for existing government funding and local taxes, according to Shlomit Radi, spokeswoman for the Jerusalem Development Authority. "No specific figures are being spoken about at the moment, it's still too early for that," Radi said. "Personally I think the

figures will initially be fairly restricted."

Analysts responded enthusiastically to the prospect of a municipal bond issuance, which they say will have many positive effects.

"This is great for the citizens and great for the government," said Noam Tepper, an analyst at Pacific Mediterranean of Herzliya. "This would mean additional money for the city at lower interest rates than the banks demand, and people can earn money while financing city projects, without having to pay higher taxes."

In addition to Jerusalem-based delegates, representatives of the Tel Aviv and Haifa municipalities, the Treasury and Interior Ministry are participating in the discussions, which have not gone beyond the civil servant level.

Under the previous government, the municipalities, led by Jerusalem, pushed for Treasury permission to sell bonds in the US. The Treasury, at the time rejected the idea, which would have required applying for tax exemptions from the US government.

In recent months, Accountant-General Shai Talmon also expressed opposition to an international sale. This, he argued, would lead to competition between central and local government.

Since then, negotiations have continued, with the sale of bonds through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange now seeming to be the way forward.

A date has yet to be set for any flotation, but according to Radi it will take at least a year: once the bill is ready for submission to the Knesset.

American Indian tribe opens Internet gambling site

WORLEY, Idaho (NY Times) — French traders called the tribe of Native Americans in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains the Coeur d'Alenes, "those with hearts like an awl," because each year the tribe demanded — and received — better deals for its furs.

Now the tribe has found a new business opportunity, starting what they believe is the first legal, US-based gambling site on the Internet.

But since its launch a month ago, the site on the World Wide Web — offering the virtual equivalent of scratch tickets, blackjack, and lotto games — has generated more controversy than revenue.

Idaho Gov. Phil Batt has spoken against the Coeur d'Alenes' Web site. Missouri Attorney-General Jay Nixon has filed suit in his state against the owner of the communications company running the site, asking that Missouri residents be blocked from playing games that he said are illegal there.

And the National Association of Attorneys General last week

issued a report on the dangers of Internet gambling and the difficulties of regulating it.

Wisconsin Attorney General James E. Doyle predicted unified opposition by other states. "If they tried to do it by phone or by mail we will stop it," he said, "and we will stop it if it's done by the Internet."

Most states outlaw Internet gambling, although the technology has evolved so quickly that gambling laws in some states are obsolete. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 1997 is currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Gambling has answered the dreams of the 1,490 Coeur d'Alenes after decades of isolating poverty, said tribal chairman Ernie Stensgar.

The tribe's bingo hall and casino opened in 1993, providing hundreds of jobs.

The Web site is expected to

earn millions of dollars a year, according to the tribe.

As with the casino's profits, 10 percent of the Internet proceeds will go to tribes that do not have gaming facilities, and 25 percent will be used to buy back reservation land from non-Indians.

Much of the rest will go to social services and education for members.

"Every tribal member who wants a job has a job," Stensgar said.

The tribe created a variety of safeguards to prevent problems at its Web site, www.uslottery.com. Players need to enter their Social Security number, verify that they are over 18 and have a credit card, and prove that they live in a state where such games are legal before they can see the lottery balls fly from a hopper or watch coins float up to scratch off tickets.

The maximum monthly wager is \$500, "so no one has to mortgage their house for this," said David Matheson, head of gaming for the tribe.

Players with gambling addictions can obtain referrals to agencies that will help them, and they can request that they be blocked from returning to the site.

"All of this we've done ourselves, using our own guidelines, so everyone could see what we're trying to do, with no argument," Matheson said.

Batt, a Republican, said he hopes that the tribe will voluntarily close the site, or that the US attorney in Boise will intervene on the basis of a referendum that Idaho residents passed in 1992 opposing casino gambling.

"This would be worse than Las

Vegas," said Frank Lockwood, the governor's spokesman. "Instead of having a casino on every corner, you potentially have a casino in every living room of the state."

Batt has appointed a Gaming Study Commission, but its 12 members have already decided they will not be able to reach a consensus.

Its reports are expected before the end of the year, although Lockwood said the governor might take the issue to state or federal court first.

The Web site is subject to a complicated array of regulation.

Internet gambling could violate the federal Interstate Wire Act, which regulates sports betting over interstate telephone lines, said I. Nelson Rose, a professor at southern California's Whittier Law School and an expert on gambling law.

But the federal law exempts betting transactions that are legal both in the state where the bet is placed and where it is taken. And the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act includes a variety of exemptions for tribes.

The laws are vague enough that the tribe could win in court, Rose said.

"It does appear that a tribe that dots its i's and crosses its t's can accept wagers by telephone and computer from people in states with state lotteries," he said. There are about 37 tribes with lotteries now.

Stensgar, the tribal chairman, said the state government would do well to see how the Coeur d'Alenes' prosperity reduces burdens on taxpayers.

"Now they are able to use that money for other needy people," he said.

Israel ratifies global accord to cut duties on information products

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The government has ratified the World Trade Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products, which will cut customs duties on computer and telecommunications products immediately, gradually eliminating them by the year 2000, the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced yesterday.

The 40 participating nations include the US and EU, with whom Israel already has free-trade agreements, as well as countries such as Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea, Australia, Taiwan and Thailand, which are not free-trade partners.

"The agreement gives Israel an opportunity to get into markets we've never been able to get into," said Marcia Harpaz, director of the ministry's multinational affairs department.

The agreement also stipulates that import taxes on more sensitive products, such as telephone switches, antennas, printed circuits and certain cables must be eliminated by the year 2005.

The information technology accord is the second of three WTO agreements designed to liberalize world markets.

Earlier in the year, the WTO issued a global accord to free up the telecommunications industry.

The agreement, which went into effect in February, paved the way for Barak and Golden Lines to enter the local telecom market.

The WTO is now negotiating a financial services accord that

would liberalize the banking, insurance and foreign exchange rates regulations.

Such an accord would be designed to make the international investment environment

more secure.

Israel produces close to one percent of the world's information technology products. Information technology is a \$500 billion market worldwide.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.75	6.00	6.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.875	6.250	6.625		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.7.97)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.8508	3.9130			3.5708
U.S. dollar	3.5414	3.5986	3.48	3.65	3.5680
German mark	2.0304	2.0832	1.99	2.10	2.0440
Pound sterling	5.9552	6.0543	5.85	6.14	6.0048
French franc	0.8024	0.8122	0.80	0.83	0.8000
Japanese yen (100)	3.1582	3.2072	3.10	3.28	3.1781
Dutch florin	1.8043	1.8335	1.77	1.88	1.8158
Swiss franc	2.4314	2.4707	2.38	2.51	2.4467
Norwegian krone	0.4508	0.4673	0.45	0.48	0.4537
Swedish krona	0.4853	0.4958	0.47	0.51	0.4830
Danish krone	0.5333	0.5420	0.52	0.55	0.5388
Finnish mark	0.6820	0.6971	0.67	0.71	0.6888
Canadian dollar	2.5736	2.6152	2.52	2.66	2.5988
Australian dollar	2.8435	2.8882	2.80	2.93	2.8787
S. African rand	0.7308	0.7514	0.70	0.80	0.7387
Belgian franc (10)	0.9843	1.0002	0.98	1.02	0.9908
Austrian schilling (10)	2.3854	2.4260	2.33	2.48	2.3973
Italian lira (1000)	2.0817	2.1153	2.04	2.16	2.0973
Jordanian dinar	4.9950	5.0758	4.93	5.27	5.0068
Egyptian pound	1.0100	1.1000	1.01	1.10	1.1153
ECU	3.9832	4.0577			4.0287
Irish punt	5.3915	5.4785	5.28	5.56	5.4945
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4030	2.4418	2.36	2.48	2.4197
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.					
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI					

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مكازم العمل

The Big Fix

Bulgaria has adopted a Hong Kong-style currency peg to curb inflation

SOFIA (Reuters)—As of July 1, Bulgaria has at least one thing in common with Hong Kong—a fixed exchange rate backing the local currency.

The currency board mechanism is a crude but effective way of reducing inflation and imposing fiscal discipline by requiring local currency in circulation to be covered by central-bank foreign-exchange reserves.

A colonial invention designed to permit monetary management by remote control, it was revived for Hong Kong in 1983 when Sino-British negotiations over the terms of Hong Kong's return to China panicked markets.

The link has anchored Hong Kong's economy through many storms since then, including a speculative attack in January 1993, a stock-market plunge following the Tiananmen massacre in 1989 and the global stock-market crash of 1987.

The same remedy was prescribed for Bulgaria by the International Monetary Fund when the economy ground to a halt last year after a run on the lev caused by the fragility of the banking sector and foreign-exchange market.

Bulgarians, who have already put up with more than seven years of notional economic transition since the end of communist

rule, must brace themselves anew for spending cuts, closures of unprofitable factories and another bleak winter.

While the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US currency, the lev will be fixed from Tuesday at 1,000 to the mark. The prospect of a fixed exchange rate has already stabilized the lev and slowed inflation, which rose by a monthly 5.6 percent in May, compared to 242.7% in February.

The reformist Union of Democratic Forces government, which took office in May, has also pledged to revive the banking sector, make people pay their taxes, and crack down on the powerful organizations that sprang up in the regulatory chaos that followed the end of communist rule in 1989.

Economists and government officials have warned that powerful economic interests could try to make the currency board fail for their own ends.

Deputies continued debating the 1997 budget on June 20 despite a bomb threat telephoned to parliament. Nothing was found, but three days earlier a bomb damaged two cars belonging to the

Multigroup business conglomerate in an apparent assassination attempt on its president, Iliya Pavlov.

Bulgarians whose savings were depleted by last winter's soaring prices may face another hard winter. The austere 1997 budget foresees the average state-sector salary reaching \$100 by year end.

Remaining price controls covering 15 basic foods was lifted on July 1, and traders have been hoarding items such as cooking oil in anticipation of price rises.

Western European countries are willing to provide some economic support, if only to prevent a tide of Bulgarians flooding into their countries looking for work.

But governments struggling to meet convergence criteria for economic and monetary union are more likely to offer cash than investment in order to protect jobs.

"Germany is not going to transfer production from Sachsen-Anhalt or wherever and increase nominal unemployment somewhere else," said one Western banker in Sofia.

Sofia businessmen say fixing the exchange rate will help their long-term planning, but they see little prospect of an immediate upturn in business.

"We are selling mainly outdated models as new ones are unaffordable for the customers," said stereo equipment salesman Georgi Tanchev.

Small businesses dealing in imported goods are already calculating prices at around the currency-board rate and contend that foreign traders are now more interested in long-term commitments.

"We are now looking at possible long-term contracts with German and Austrian firms to import second-hand fridges and stoves," said shopkeeper Ivan Vassilev.

Deputy Industry Minister Marin Marinov said he expected no great shock at the start of the currency board as the economy had been stabilizing in preparation for the past two months.

"There may be an initial rush of changes from dollar and deutsche mark to lev because of the higher interest. There may be an initial rush from the mattress savings to bank savings, also because the banks will become more reliable," he said.

"The problems of the currency board may be coming later, but initially it won't be like hitting the brakes on a moving bus."

TRADING FLOORS



WITH THALIA GRIFFITHS



to 1988, he held the post of director of software at Xanadu International Ltd., Jerusalem. He has a B.Sc. in electrical engineering and computer science from Northwestern University and a M.Sc. in industrial engineering and ergonomics from North Carolina State University.

Also at Virtual Jerusalem, Michael Sondheim has been named vice-president for finance and CFO. Sondheim, 34, is a CPA licensed to practice in the US and Israel. From 1995 until joining the company in June 1997, Sondheim was financial controller and principal accounting officer at Accent Software International Ltd. From 1994 to 1995, he served as the audit manager with Kesselman and Kesselman, a member firm of Coopers & Lybrand International, Jerusalem.

Noted cardiologist Prof. Shlomo Stern, the founder of Heart to Heart Israel, has been elected as national chairman of the Heart to Heart board of management. Heart to Heart is a volunteer organization dedicated to the prevention of heart diseases. Stern, who teaches at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, replaces Prof. Eliezer Kaplinski, who served as Heart to Heart chairman for 12 years.

Richard Klapholz, 33, has been appointed vice-president for marketing and business development at Eldor Computers. He comes to his new position after five years at Scitex, most recently as director of marketing in the systems division.

Diesenhuis Travel and Tourism Services has appointed Miri Finkelstein as the manager of its newly established conventions department. A Hebrew University social-sciences alumnus, Finkelstein has vast local and overseas experience in initiating, planning and organizing congresses, conventions and seminars. She has worked for Kemes in Israel, MBZ Consultants in the US, the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv, and International Travel and Tourism. Prior to accepting her present position, she ran her own conventions agency.

Chanan Ziederman, 37, proprietor of the Media 88 advertising agency, has been elected president of the Israel branch of the Knights of the Round Table. An international, apolitical body of volunteers, the Knights of the Round Table promote community-oriented projects and give aid to the needy. The organization has been functioning in Israel for 20 years.

Liran Geronot-Kaplan has been appointed marketing and sales manager at Yad Mordochai's be-leave, believed to be the largest in Israel.

Norman Rafelson, who was general manager of the Hyatt Regency, Jerusalem, from 1988 to 1991, is returning to Israel to manage the Hyatt Regency Dead Sea Resort and Spa. A graduate of Cornell University and the Lausanne Hotel School, Rafelson has been with Hyatt Hotels since 1973.

Yehoshua Forman, 32, is the new general manager of the Carmel Hotel, Netanya. Forman, who is a political science and hotel-management graduate of Haifa University, held several managerial positions for the Dan chain.

MOTORS

Commanding Respect

Perfection doesn't come cheap, but Porsche owners rule the road



Porsche Boxster

By JOEL GORDON

A Porsche is like a sawed-off shotgun. You seldom need to pull the trigger; just point it, and other people get the idea. In the case of the firearm, that means you can rob banks without killing folks. In the case of the Porsche, it means you can dominate the passing lane—almost any lane, really—without much argument.

At the invitation of the German company, I piloted Porsche Boxsters and 911s around their hometown of Stuttgart, Germany. I found that even though they are a familiar sight in that area, the other road-users give them a healthy amount of respect. In Israel, a Porsche would not only provoke wolf whistles and second glances, it would, hopefully, intimidate those locals who believe their divine mission is to drive slowly in the fast lanes of major commuting routes.

One glance at the mean face of the 911 or the Boxster in their mirrors would be enough to get slowpokes out of the way, lowering the blood pressure and raising the sanity levels of the line of motorists stacked up behind.

This is one of the points I came up with while searching my mind for reasons why an Israeli resident

would want to spend half-a-million shekels on a Porsche, when the maximum speed limit on our roads is 100 km/h.

The two-seater Boxster is the least expensive Porsche. It was launched last year to appeal to those who want a Porsche, but can't afford any one of the classic 911 series, which was launched in 1963 and is still going strong. The Boxster is a two-seater with a 2,800cc, 204-horsepower, six-cylinder engine mounted in the middle of the body.

The mid-engine mount is a return to roots; the feature was used in the first Porsche prototypes back in 1948. There are practical advantages too, namely two large luggage compartments in the front and rear. Unlike the 911s, the Boxster has a super-modern design. The body is smooth, flowing and aerodynamic, with a drag coefficient of only .31.

The soft-top roof can be opened and closed with an electric switch in less than 12 seconds. The three large inter-locked dials behind the steering wheel, while striking, make the dash look cramped; I prefer the more spacious dash design of the 911.

Nothing has been left off the accessory list. As far as extras such as leather seats are concerned, it must be remembered

that Porsches are custom-built for individual buyers. Each prospective Porsche buyer is encouraged to visit the factory in Stuttgart to try out various models and to choose accessories. If after the visit the customer buys a Porsche, the cost of the visit is refunded.

The Boxster purchaser has the choice of either the five-speed manual gearbox or the five-speed automatic transmission. However, the triptonic S automatic transmission is in addition to the manual shift, not in place of it. The gear-selector lever only has positions P, R, N and D. If the driver gets out of town and wants to be in control of the gears, he or she only needs to move the lever from the automatic plane on the right to the manual plane on the left to be able to select gears through shift buttons on the steering wheel. The driver can choose the most suitable of five programs in the control unit of the automatic transmission. It is also a step ahead of the driver. For example, whenever the driver abruptly takes his or her foot off the accelerator and/or applies the brakes, the automatic transmission recognizes the driver's wish to slow down and accordingly shifts down instead of up.

The transfer from the Boxster to the 911 series is like climbing off a moped and mounting a 900cc

motorcycle. The 911s range from the 3,600cc, 285 h.p. Carrera 4S to the 911 turbo Carrera with an awesome 408 h.p. On the speed-limitless German autobahns, one can cruise at 240 km/h and feel that there is more speed left under the gas pedal.

For "weekend drivers," the 911 experience can be grueling—comparable to an inexperienced horse rider trying to mount a bucking bronco. The clutches are tough, the steering is tight and the seating, although plush, is low-slung. Access to the interior is not easy. The most suitable model for novices is the Carrera 4S, whose four-wheel drive offers optimum safety and traction on wet and slushy roads.

So why would an Israeli want to buy a Porsche? The genial company CEO Dr. Wendelin Wiedeking offers an answer: "You don't buy a Porsche for speed or as a status symbol. For those who understand automobiles, it is the ultimate in performance."

But one pays a high price for perfection: the Boxster costs between NIS 400,000 and NIS 600,000 (depending on accessories) and the 911 from NIS 680,000 to more than NIS 1 million (for the turbo).

To date, local dealers Automobile Components have sold four Porsches.

Wiedeking poetically,

"To make sure it will never again lapse into the red, Porsche, last year, made a bold move by launching a sports car to appeal to the 'moderately rich,' rather than the 'filthy rich.' The sleek, elegant Boxster is selling alongside more expensive models of the classic 911 series. The Boxster has been a sales hit in Europe and in the US, and demand exceeds supply."

Porsche's research and development center has produced a popular-priced family car called the C88, which it hopes to sell on the Chinese market. The C88 could probably be an instant hit among status-conscious Israeli drivers. Automobile Components have done well to get in on the ground floor with the dynamic company which has risen from the ashes and is burning at the seams with talent and plans.

The Road to Profits

Many hard-boiled businesspeople scoffed in February when local conglomerate Automotive Equipment Ltd. started importing Porsche sports cars to Israel. Automotive's target sales are between 10 and 15 automobiles a year; even if it sells twice that amount, it cannot break even on the venture.

However, a closer study of Porsche AG, the mother company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, shows that Automotive may have made a shrewd move. Porsche is a family business founded by Austrian-born Prof. Ferdinand Porsche, the man who designed the Volkswagen Beetle for Adolf Hitler. The first Porsches were built in Austria in 1948 using a rear-mounted VW engine. The factory was later moved to Stuttgart, home of most of the suppliers.

It took a long time to establish

high normal business in occupied Germany and Austria, but the nimble, speedy Porsche got off to a brilliant start due to its tremendous success on the racing track.

It was snatched up by the jet set, not only in Europe but also in far-off California, where it became, by the mid-1950s, the cult car among those for whom "price was no obstacle."

By the middle of the '80s, Porsche was badly hit by the falling value of the dollar, which made the marque too expensive even for the US's beautiful people. As the US was the biggest foreign market, by 1992 Porsche was on the verge of bankruptcy.

The company was then passed into the hands of a new CEO, dynamic 49-year-old Dr. Wendelin Wiedeking. He believed

that the Japanese were taking over the world's automobile markets not because they had better cars, but because they produced at lower costs.

He dragged his executives off to Japan where they studied efficiency and cost-saving methods at the Toyota plant. He returned to Germany and started doing things the Japanese way. The Porsche plant fired one-third of its workers, improved its efficiency and slashed the resulting lower production costs to consumers.

Wiedeking turned a DM 40 million loss in 1992 into a DM 48m profit by the end of last year. This year, the half-year profit is DM 38m.

"We came out of the valley of tears into a new era," states

In these times you cannot
AFFORD to be without
THE JERUSALEM
POST

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

8.7 In a bold, all-under-one-roof capital-markets campaign, Amichai Ben-David, managing director of D.C.L. Technologies, will host a breakfast meeting at the Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv, to report on the company's activities and to outline its future strategies and technological initiatives to investors, entrepreneurs and managers of venture-capital funds. D.C.L., established in 1990, is the mother company of four high-tech start-up ventures operating in different technological fields.

9.7 The Kibbutz Movement Institute for Organizational and Social Counseling will hold a seminar entitled Separating the Economy from the community, focusing on those kibbutzim which are on the verge of privatization. Participants will discuss the overall impact of separating the productive sector of the kibbutz from the kibbutz community as a whole and the positive and negative aspects of the resultant relationship between the kibbutz business network and the rest of the kibbutz. The seminar will take place at Kibbutz Artzi headquarters, 13 Leonardo da Vinci Street, Tel Aviv.

10.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in Jordan Hotels will be held at the offices of Africa Israel Hotels, 13 Ahad Ha'am Street, Tel Aviv. Among the items on the agenda is an amendment to the company's articles of association.

17.7 Success Works, a Jerusalem-based organization that encourages women to develop their business potential, is hosting a how-to seminar combined with a dinner and networking opportunities. Promoted by the teaser Women and Money: Upgrade Your Professional Worth, the event will be held at the Seventh Place restaurant, 37 Hillel Street, Jerusalem. Speakers will discuss psychological needs for creating prosperity, negotiating for more money and the feminine advantage in investing.

8.9 A five-day seminar on Global Financial Management, organized by the economics department of the Israel Export Institute, will take place at the Renaissance Hotel, Zurich. The program will include discussions on financial management of multinational companies; joint ventures and acquisitions; joint capital recruitment and invest-

ment; Switzerland as a center for business arbitration; the upcoming euro currency; and funding of projects in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Central Europe. The seminar will provide ample opportunities for business networking and field trips.

4.11 Automotive After-market Industry Week '97, the world's largest trade fair of its kind, will be held at the Sands Expo Center and Las Vegas Convention Center. The four-day fair, with over 3,000 exhibitors from around the world, will include more than 100 seminars, workshops and product demonstrations and will feature a broad selection of tires, wheels, racing and performance products, tools, mobile electronics, new vehicles and prototypes of new concept cars.

2.6.98 Following last month's highly successful inauguration of Internetworld Israel '97, which attracted 123 local and overseas Internet companies, organizers decided to make it an annual event and have already set aside three days for next year's Internetworld International '98, which will again be held at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

London Calling

Tim and Greg, the usual horizontal heavyweights

By Mark Rivlin

When the former British heavy-weight boxer Brian London was given a particularly severe lesson by Mohammed Ali (then Cassius Clay) in 1966, the press coined the phrase "horizontal heavyweight" which was to become the trademark of future British sporting embarrassments in years to come.

But this summer, we thought there was a ray of hope on the horizon with an improved performance in the Ashes, England's heightened form in football, the British Lions superb victory in South Africa, cyclist Chris Boardman leading the Tour de France after the first time trial, and Tim (Henman) and Greg (Rusedski), the best British double act since Morecombe and Wise, conquering all before them at Wimbledon.

All that is, until quarter finals day, when the dynamic duo were unceremoniously dumped out of the men's singles by Michael Stich and Cedric Pioline respectively. Rusedski, of course, is not exactly your Sunday-roast-and-two-veg-British. Having been brought up in Canada, where he learned his tennis, he is presumably more in tune with the vagaries of the Stanley, rather than the FA Cup, and one can imagine his chosen minority sport is curling, and certainly not darts. Before the match with Pioline, Rusedski did his very best to come over as your average English rosy-cheeked chappie saying the usual stuff about how the Wimbledon crowd were worth a game's start. After he was beaten in four sets, the rosy cheeks were slightly redder.

True grit, (or true Brit) Henman was the real partisans' favorite. Rusedski had rediscovered his roots but Henman, with mum and dad looking remarkably similar to Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in the classic *Brief Encounter* pose as they watched from the gallery, was all English. Before the match with Stich, a German to boot, we had TV crews dispatched to his Oxfordshire village to seek out the views of the regulars in the local pub. "Oh, we are so proud of our Tim, he's just a local boy at heart" was the general order of consensus. By evening, Henman was another horizontal heavyweight, despite valiant attempts by the Wimbledon faithful to put Stich off his stride by the occasional ad libbed "come on Tim" as Stich threw up the ball to serve.

By Friday, the BBC hardly made a passing shot at the world's greatest tennis tournament - why should they, there were no Brits left to scream and shout about. The cruel irony was that our national terrestrial broadcaster went in search of national pride and glory to Old Trafford where a certain Shane Warne was rediscovering his ability to bemuse the English batsmen.

Australians buoyant after levelling Ashes series

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Australia claimed to have taken a psychological and mathematical advantage after routing England by 268 runs in the third Test at Old Trafford yesterday.

The teams are now level at one match each, with three to play. But England, grateful to hold out for a draw in the rain-affected second test at Lord's, have lost much of the confidence and momentum they gained by winning all three one-day internationals and then the first Test at Edgbaston.

"We're in control because we hold the Ashes," said Australian captain Mark Taylor. "We played the better cricket at Lord's and now we've won here."

"If we keep playing like we have been, we're going to be very hard to beat." But perhaps keen not to tempt fate, he added: "I think England are capable of bouncing back. The momentum changed after the first test and could do again." Taylor said that he was not concerned about his own form despite failing in both innings, and that he hoped Michael Bevan could also use the county games before the next test in two-and-a-half weeks time to make some runs.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne is taking advantage of the gap between Tests to fly home for a week to see his wife and new baby.

Australia needed only an hour and a half to claim the five wickets required on the final day when England resumed at 130 for five, Paceman Glenn McGrath, still

obtaining lift, took the first four of them, including the crucial dismissal of John Crawley.

Crawley, the last of the established batsmen, had resisted well in making 83 before treading on his wicket.

Warne, who took six wickets in England's first innings finished with three for 63 in the second. He claimed the final wicket, but not the man of the match award, which deservedly went to Steve Waugh for his two centuries, despite an injured hand.

It was England's first defeat in eight Tests and their captain Michael Atherton insisted that his side could still win the series.

"At one-one, it's finely balanced, like half-time in a football match," he said. "We batted our

Australia, 1st Innings 235
England, 1st Innings 182
Australia, 2nd Innings 395 for 8 dec
England, 2nd Innings (overnight 130 for 5)

M. Butcher c McGrath b Gillespie	28
M. Atherton lbw b Gillespie	21
A. Stewart b Warne	1
N. Hussain lbw b Gillespie	1
G. Thorpe c Healy b Warne	7
J. Crawley 1st wicket b McGrath	83
M. Ealham c Healy b McGrath	9
R. Croft c Relfel b McGrath	7
D. Gough b McGrath	15
A. Caddick c Gillespie b Warne	17
D. Headley not out	0
Extras (14b, 4lb, 1nb, 1w)	20
Total (73.4 overs)	200
Fall of wickets: 44, 45, 50, 55, 84, 158, 170, 177, 188, 200	
Bowling: G. McGrath 21-4-4-4, J. Gillespie 12-4-31-3, P. Relfel 2-0-8-0 (1nb), S. Warne 30-4-8-83-3, M. Bevan 8-2-34-0 (1w)	
Result: Australia won by 268 runs.	

Women set new nat'l marks in javelin, hammer

By JOEL GORDIN

Two women's field records were broken last night in the second day of the 61st Israel Athletics Championships at Hadar Yosef Stadium in Tel Aviv.

Dorit Ashkenazi smashed her own javelin record by 1.1 meters when she achieved a distance of 49.56. She set the previous mark of 48.46m last year.

Dalit Baran hurled the hammer 35.64 meters, bettering her own mark of 35.60 which she set in 1995.

In the high jump, both Ili Margalit and his rival, Konstantin Matushevich cleared 2.24 meters and failed at 2.28 meters.

Margalit won the contest, however, as he had notched fewer failures to clear the bar than Matushevich.

The height of 2.28 meters would have qualified Margalit for the World Championships to be held in Athens in August.

He still has one more chance to clear the height - at this month's Maccabiah.

Matushevich has already earned his place with the record 2.34 meters which he achieved last June.

Chile's Sebastian Keitel won the 200 meters in an all-comers' record time of 20.48 seconds. Another Chilean, Carlos Moreno, was second in 20.95 seconds and the first Israeli past the post was Tommy Kfir in 21.33 seconds.

Other results yesterday:
Men's Hammer: I. Ror Geller (58.70m), 400m hurdles: I. Phillip Feingold (51.83sec), Javelin: I. Gilel German (70m), Long jump: I. Mark Melikov (7.50m), 800m: I. Billy Koshela (Kosov) (1:48.50), 2. Yosef Gersho (1:48.07), Women's High jump: I. Marina Shifra (1.75m), Long jump: I. Moran Katz (6.05m), Shot put: I. Talia Asher (13.15m), 400m hurdles: I. Olga Dor (1:01.24).



Cipollini repeats Tour stage success
Italian Mario Cipollini (foreground), riding next to last year's winner Bjarne Riis of Denmark, snatched a second successive Tour de France stage victory yesterday. The undisputed king of sprints surged in the last 20 meters of the longest stage - 262 km from St Valery-de-Caux to Vire - to retain race leadership. Cipollini holds a 36-second lead over prolog winner Chris Boardman of Britain before today's 217 km third stage from Vire to Plumelec.

LOCAL SCENE

Maccabiah countdown nearly over as teams begin to roll in

By HEATHER CHAIT

Final preparations for the 15th Maccabiah moved into top gear this week as the chartered El Al jumbo coasted into Ben-Gurion Airport with the 500-odd US team on board.

The delegation, the largest of the visiting nations, will compete in 29 events.

Waiting among the schoolchildren with flowers to welcome the team was Michal Hosh, a medical student at Tel Aviv University. Both Michal and her twin sister, Yael, will be representing the US field hockey team.

Volleyballer Greg Spector, here for his third Maccabiah, made no bones about his objective. "We're going to crush," he said, smiling widely.

Just as clear about the end goal of four years planning was Ron Carner, Vice-Chairman of the organizing team who said, "We don't bring these athletes here to run around in short pants; we bring them to know where they're from."

After the US contingent, which will number 600 altogether, Argentina is the next biggest (390), followed by Britain (376), Australia (370), Canada (360), Brazil (282) and South Africa (250).

Cuba will be competing for the first time.

And on the subject of numbers, these games will be the biggest ever with 5,500 athletes competing in 96 events in 32 branches of sport.

All tickets for the opening ceremony on July 14 at the 45,000-seat National Stadium in Ramat Gan have already been snapped up.

The highlight of the evening which President Ezer Weizman will usher in, will be Rita in concert.

In other Maccabiah news, rugby is expected to be a closely contested event with France and the US posing a real threat to the South African stalwarts.

In Israel's group will be Canada, France and

South Africa while the US, Australia, Argentina and Britain will fight it out in Group B.

Captain and flyhalf Johnny Saacks will be the main figure in the host team with strong support from Alex Tkachenko, Guy Dotan (who has been playing in New Zealand) and Darren Pircus.

And in badminton, national champion Leon Pogach and runner-up Paz Ben-Divon will lead Israel proudly into battle while Svetlana Zilberman is expected to be peerless among the women.

The group competition (UK, US and Israel) will be held on July 15-16 with the individual matches on July 17-21 (excluding July 18-19). In the individual event will be Croatia, the UK, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the US, Canada, Denmark and Israel. Matches will be held at Beit Danny near Yad Eliahu.

Golf: Four players in Division A of the

Israel training camp gets under way at last

By ORI LEWIS

After a long and difficult journey, the national soccer team began its training camp at Seefeld, near Innsbruck, in the Austrian Alps yesterday.

The 90 minute bus ride from Munich took over four hours as torrential conditions caused roadblocks and traffic congestion on the way to the popular ski resort.

Upon arrival on Sunday night, the pitch was completely waterlogged and the team only managed to begin training yesterday.

David Amsalem, who is under investigation by the tax authorities, had his passport returned and proceeded to join his teammates later on Sunday.

Eli Ohana, who is a similar predicament to that of Amsalem, will join the squad today, after having his passport returned yesterday.

Less fortunate is Ronen Harazi, who has not been able to secure the release of his passport. Under the circumstances, he will probably stay at home and try to solve his tax problems before flying to Spain where he is due to start training with Salamanca shortly.

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Ironi Lod boys win Med trophy

The boys of Ironi Lod soccer club won the Mediterranean Cup trophy under 16s in Spain last week and returned to their home town as champions yesterday.

The Lod boys beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the final. Ironi also won the very prestigious cup of Ben-Zion. A.C. Maccabi Ramat Gan lost on their way to winning the cup.

Tiger Woods captures Western Open

LEMONT, Illinois (Reuters) - Tiger Woods, refreshed from a week away from golf, charged to his fourth win of the year Sunday, using three birdies over a four-hole stretch on the back nine for a three-shot win at the \$2 million Western Open.

Woods began the day in a three-way tie for the lead and fired a four-under-par 68 for a 72-hole total of 13-under 275 that was three strokes better than Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand, who shot a final-round 70.

The 21-year-old Woods leads the US Tour with his four wins and padded his lead on top of the money list with the \$360,000 first prize that boosted his earnings over \$1.7 million.

Woods, who spent a week fishing following poor finishes at the Memorial, US Open and Buick Classic, claimed his sixth win in just 21 events since turning professional last August.

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Convicted mass murderer Hassan Salameh (left) confers with lawyer Jawad Boulos yesterday before being sentenced by the Beit El Military Court. (AP)

Salameh gets 46 life terms

News agencies

The Beit El Military Court yesterday sentenced Hamas master bomber Hassan Salameh to 46 consecutive life terms, plus 20 years, for engineering three suicide bombings in Israel in 1996. Forty-six people were killed and 90 wounded in the blasts.

One member of the three-judge panel favored sentencing Salameh to death.

"The accused... whose only desire was to prevent the process of reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians with torn bodies, deserves to rot in jail until his dying day," said Judge Col. Ian Katz.

Salameh, 26, stood impassively for 30 minutes as each life sentence was read and matched to the name of a person he had helped to kill.

Salameh himself said after his conviction last week that he would not object to death. Jawad Boulos, Salameh's lawyer, said he accepted the sentence.

Salameh was the deputy commander of Izzadin Kassam, the military wing of Hamas.

Hamas terrorist back in jail

A Hamas terrorist wanted for killing up to 12 people, including the kidnapped soldier Sharon Edri, gave himself up to Palestinian police in Hebron yesterday morning, several days after he escaped from Hebron jail.

Ibrahim Ranimat was one of three members of a Hamas cell the Palestinian Authority arrested in April after a tip-off by Israeli security forces, who had arrested other members of the cell in Tzurif. The cell was responsible for a number of terror attacks, including the Apropos cafe bombing in Tel Aviv in March, which was carried out by Ranimat's cousin.

Israeli security sources had suspected that Palestinian police aided Ranimat's release. Preventive Security Service head Col. Jibril Rajoub said that his return proved that was not true.

Ranimat is being held without charges. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

mander of Izzadin Kassam, the military wing of Hamas.

The three suicide bombings orchestrated by Salameh in the winter of 1996 - two on Jerusalem buses and one at a hitchhiking post for soldiers outside Ashkelon - led to an Israeli backlash against the peace talks with the Palestinians.

The court, sentencing Salameh to an additional 20 years for weapons possession violations and other offenses, voiced hope that the imprisoned terrorist would eventually see progress in the stalled Israeli-PLO peace process that Hamas has vowed to scuttle.

Salameh already is serving two other life sentences: one for planning a 1995 suicide attack that wounded an Israeli soldier, the other for killing a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Prosecutor Maj. Daniel Cohen said after sentencing that the decision not to request the death penalty had come from his superiors, as part of the IDF's policy not to demand death sentences for terrorist murderers.

Israel allows the death penalty in two types of cases - crimes against humanity and crimes against the security of the state.

Only one criminal, Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann, has been put to death, in 1962.

Liat Collins adds: MK Nissim Zivili (Labor) yesterday submitted a bill which would prevent any possibility of the terrorist Hassan Salameh being released in a prisoner exchange.

"For the terrible deeds perpetrated by this arch murderer, Salameh, he should sit in prison for the rest of his days without being allowed to go free and see the light of day," said Zivili.

The clash in which Milo was killed sparked heavy exchanges between Hizbullah and IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners.

IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships also carried out a series of

IDF officer laid to rest

By DAVID RUDGE

Sporadic shelling continued in south Lebanon yesterday, following the heavy fighting on Sunday in which an IDF officer was killed, at least seven Lebanese civilians were wounded, and Katyusha rockets fell along Israel's northern border.

Maj. Nadav Milo, 24, of Kibbutz Sde Elihu in the Beit She'an Valley, was laid to rest in the kibbutz cemetery yesterday evening.

Milo, commander of a Paratroop Brigade engineers company, was killed in a clash with Hizbullah gunmen in the security zone's Soujoud region on Sunday morning.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine, other senior IDF officers, and MKs joined Milo's family, friends, comrades-in-arms, and kibbutz members at the funeral.

"The disaster that fell upon you, Avraham, Bridget, Dan, Tirza, and Michal is too great to bear, and no words or condolences come to my lips, I can only quote the words of Nadav and say, 'If we don't do the work in south Lebanon, who will do it? This is what the officer that grew up in this valley said, and this is how he behaved,'" Netanyahu said to Milo's family and the hundreds of people at the funeral.

Milo, an outstanding scholar and exemplary soldier, was considered to be a rising young officer with a bright future in the army. He was killed when Hizbullah gunmen surprised the paratroop unit he was commanding and opened fire at them while the soldiers were on patrol near the Soujoud outpost.

Mordechai spoke about the situation in south Lebanon during the unveiling of a monument in Beit Jann earlier yesterday for two members of the Zeidan family in the Druze village who were killed while serving with the IDF - one of them in south Lebanon last year.

"There is no break in the war in the security zone which is continuing all the time. The buffer between the terrorists and northern communities are the fighters from the best of the IDF's units - the best we have," said Mordechai.

"We want to find a solution and we are seeking one. The solution lies in Lebanon - in the responsibility of the Lebanese government and that of the Lebanese Army."

The clash in which Milo was killed sparked heavy exchanges between Hizbullah and IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners.

IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships also carried out a series of

raids against Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

During the exchanges, three Lebanese civilians, including a seven-year-old boy, were injured when shells, apparently fired by IDF and SLA gunners, hit Jarjous and Ein Baswar villages north of the zone.

Hizbullah later fired Katyusha rockets and mortars at IDF outposts in the zone's eastern and western sectors and along Israel's northern border. There were no casualties, although one Katyusha fell on the border in the western sector, damaging the border fence, while another rocket started a brush fire which burned itself out.

Military sources said it appeared some of the rockets and mortar shells Hizbullah fired on Sunday night had fallen short and hit villages north of the zone, wounding four civilians.

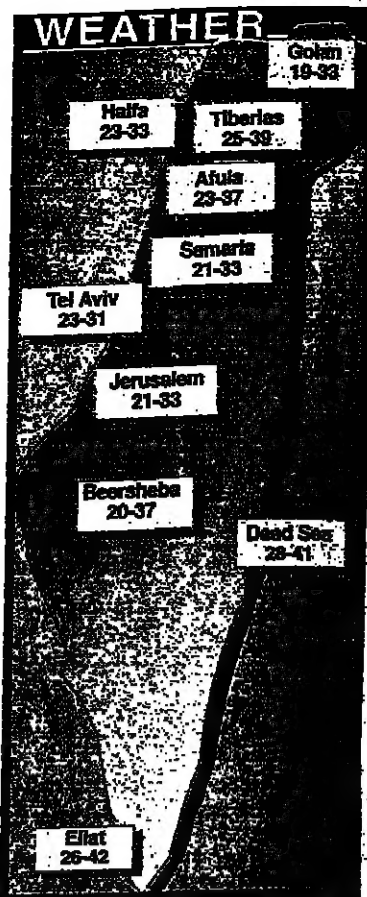
Reports from Lebanon claimed originally that the injuries sustained by four residents of Tibait village in the Sunday night exchanges were a result of IDF shelling. The allegations were later dropped when it transpired they were probably the result of Hizbullah fire.

An official Hizbullah announcement said it had fired separate salvos of Katyusha rockets at three IDF positions on or near Israel's border on Sunday night "in retaliation for the Zionist enemy targeting innocent civilians in the liberated villages and wounding a number of them, including a seven-year-old boy in Jarjous village."

The *As-Safir* Lebanese daily newspaper quoted Hizbullah sources yesterday as denying that the organization had aimed the rockets at Israeli territory. The sources were quoted as saying that Hizbullah had used 107mm. Katyusha rockets, which have a range of around 8 km. and were therefore not capable of crossing the border.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group convened at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday to discuss complaints from Israel and Lebanon over incidents in south Lebanon last week. Lebanon protested against alleged IDF shelling last Wednesday which hit Tibait village, wounding a local resident and causing some damage.

Israel complained about Hizbullah bombardments early the following morning of IDF positions along the northern border after some of the shells fell inside Israeli territory - in breach of the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last April.



Forecast: Hot and dry with no change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	C	HIGH	
Amsterdam	12	54	22	72
Buenos Aires	18	61	23	73
Chicago	14	59	20	68
Copenhagen	11	53	20	68
Frankfurt	12	54	20	68
Geneva	11	53	20	68
Helsinki	11	53	20	68
Hong Kong	28	79	28	79
London	17	63	14	57
Los Angeles	18	64	32	90
Madrid	15	59	31	88
Moscow	13	55	23	73
Munich	12	54	21	70
New York	17	63	24	75
Paris	14	57	21	70
Rome	14	57	21	70
Sydney	10	50	19	65
Tokyo	12	54	21	70
Toronto	12	54	21	70
Vancouver	12	54	21	70
Zurich	11	53	20	68

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the nine of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

The results of the second draw were the nine of spades, eight of hearts, queen of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

IDF eases closure

In a slight easing of the closure, the IDF yesterday lowered from 27 to 25 the minimum age for married Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip eligible to work in Israel. The quota allows for 35,000 workers, but only 24,000 Gazans have sought work permits so far, a government spokesman said. Israel is also increasing by 1,000 the number of merchants and Palestinian officials eligible to receive entry permits. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Swiss fund monies to go to groups, not individual survivors

BERN (Reuters) - The executive committee of Switzerland's Holocaust humanitarian fund pledged yesterday to start distributing money as quickly as possible, but it was not clear that funds would go to individual needy survivors and their families.

"We want to discuss today a fast-track process to be able to make the first payments as quickly as possible but still in a controlled manner," Rolf Bloch, the fund's chairman and head of the Swiss Jewish Federation, told reporters, before the seven-member panel began its first meeting.

The meeting was expected to reach a consensus on distributing funds to groups and projects, rather than to individuals.

"This would allow us to release a certain part of the fund's money as early as today for processing, in line with proposals from the advisory council and from organizations that guarantee that funds are used in a correct and supervised way," Bloch said.

"We would be very happy if we are able today to set something in motion with this fast-track process even if we know that we will never be able - neither today nor in the future - to help all the needy as much as we would like," he said. The fund, which was initiated more than six months ago, includes millions of francs donated by Swiss banks and private businesses to assist needy Jewish and non-Jewish survivors. Attention has been focused on Jewish survivors in Eastern Europe, the "double victims" who did not qualify for the German reparations programs because they lived behind the Iron Curtain.

There had been an often-repeated proposal that the Eastern Europeans get a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 from the fund. However, the direct individual payments appeared to be less likely, in part because the sheer numbers of survivors could exhaust much of the resources of the fund.

Israel defense prize is awarded to the Baz fire-control system

By STEVE RODAN

The Israel Prize for Defense was awarded yesterday to the developers of an advanced armored fire control system which allows tanks to shoot attack helicopters out of the sky.

Called the Baz, the system allows armored vehicles to shoot in all conditions at moving targets on land and in the air. The Baz was developed by El-Op Electro Optics Industries and Elbit Systems Ltd.

The project was led by Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yisrael Tal, who in the 1970s initiated the development of the Merkava tank and is now a senior official in the Defense Ministry. The IDF Armored Corps, Tank Development Authority, and Ammunition Corps. also were involved in the project.

The Baz is meant to be installed

in the Merkava Mark III tank and industry executives said it will significantly improve the tank's performance.

"There are many benefits of this system compared to the fire control systems of the previous generation," said Avi Azaad, deputy director-general of El-Op, "among them the ability to carry out battle missions during the day, night, in difficult weather conditions, the ability to fire at moving targets such as tanks, and those flying at altitudes such as attack helicopters."

Ya'acov Hazan, one of the developers of the Baz at El-Op, who received the prize at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, agreed.

"This is a unique system, the fruits of original and advanced ideas," he said. "Integrated with

other Merkava tanks, the Baz places the Merkava in the first line of the top tanks in the world."

Elbit President Joseph Ackerman praised the close cooperation between the IDF and the Defense Ministry, saying this has resulted in the Merkava achieving the requirements needed to operate in the battlefield of the 21st Century.

Another prize winner was a classified project carried out by IDF Intelligence Corps. Moshe Epstein, one of the founders of Rafael Armaments Development Authority, was given a lifetime achievement prize at the ceremony for his work in missile development.

This is the third time El-Op has won the Israel Prize for Defense. For Elbit, it was the second such award.



Indoor swimming, Herodian style

This indoor pool, the first from the Second Temple period to be discovered here, was uncovered in excavations at Herodian National Park conducted under the auspices of the Hebrew University. It was originally covered by a stone vault which has since collapsed or was destroyed. The discovery is one of many made recently as workers completed uncovering Herod's large bathhouse complex. This season is the first that digging has been conducted at Herodian since 1987. (Gabi Laron/Hebrew University)

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